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Dykes attacks 'hysterical' whips

Major: I've had a bellyful of Euro rows

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR said yesterday that he had "had a bellyful" of Conservative in-fighting over Europe, and he warned Baroness Thatcher and rebel MPs to unite behind him or face election defeat.

But even as he spoke, Tory rightwingers continued to stir the pot, and one of the MPs reprimanded for attempted "blackmail" over a hospital casualty unit hit back, accusing the Prime Minister of lack of judgment and the Government of being out of touch.

Mr Major was clearly irritated that the Welsh Party Conference at Porthcawl had been overshadowed by his predecessor's ostentatious offer to donate money to Bill Cash's anti-federalist European Foundation. He told the *Western Morning Mail*: "I am not going to be distracted by the noises off on one side or noises off on the other side. I have had a bellyful of that."

The Prime Minister later warned to the theme in his conference speech, part of which was aimed specifically at Lady Thatcher. "Our job, the job of everyone in parliament, the job of all Tories everywhere is to bend all our efforts into winning the general election. There is no time for distractions. We need to go out there on the doorstep, all of us without exception, to fight for the Conservative cause."

Mr Major said the Tories knew better than anyone else the divisions the debate on Europe could unleash, but urged: "Let's not let that debate drift into individual clashes." Whatever the different shades of opinion on Europe within the party, one factor remained constant: "We will need to fight together."

Audrey Huil, the conference



Major: we must unite or face defeat

chairman, echoed the call in her opening speech, saying activists were tired of the way some MPs behaved and deplored their disunity. William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, also urged Lady Thatcher to stop rocking the boat. In a BBC radio interview he said: "Everyone here wants a Conservative government this time next year. It is important for everyone in the Conservative Party to put across that powerful message. That includes the humblest party activists and the former leader of the party. If we do that, the next election is there for the taking."

But the Tory right rallied behind Lady Thatcher, with John Townend, the 92 Group chairman, and Iain Duncan Smith, whose Bill to curb the European court was supported by 66 Tory MPs, defending her right to support Mr Cash's foundation. Sir Alan Walters, Lady Thatcher's former economics adviser, even refused to rule out the prospect of her endorsing Sir James Gold-

smith's Referendum Party at the next election.

Mr Major faced further dissent at Westminster from Hugh Dykes, who was still smarting from being publicly condemned for his threat to boycott Commons votes in the battle over Edgware Hospital accident and emergency unit.

Despite being rebuked by Alastair Goodlad, the Chief Whip, at an acrimonious meeting on Thursday, he remained defiant, attacking the Prime Minister, the Health Secretary, the whips and fellow backbenchers.

"The whips office behave like hysterical children and if they try any dirty tricks over the weekend, I will be having strong words with them on Monday. I was staggered that officials at No 10 allowed the Prime Minister to become involved. This was a serious misjudgment," he said.

"As for the 1922 Committee, words fail me and perhaps Mr Carling's description of the Rugby Union officials would be the most apposite reaction," Mr Dykes said in a statement. Will Carling, the former England captain, famously described the officials as a bunch of old farts.

Mr Dykes also accused Stephen Dorrell of making distorted comments and said the reaction to the issue had proved that the Government had totally lost touch with the needs of millions of real people. "The Conservative Party has to get back to moderate, sensible, one-nation politics instead of this fantasy of rightwing nonsense or they will be doomed at the next election," he said.

Tim Hames, page 24
Letters, page 25



WPC Sharon McCrossan, a Scot, swaps hats with a fan during an outbreak of clan loyalty in London yesterday

Scots invaders take the capital

By ALAN HAMILTON
AND JOHN GOODBODY

A TARTAN army was encamped in England's capital last night after eight years of uneasy soccer peace.

Today they will watch as the oldest football international in the world, born in 1874, is briefly revived at Wembley for the sake of Euro 96. The Scottish football team will have 90 minutes to prove their worth against England, backed by 8,000

troops from north of the Border with tickets, and a further 15,000 England-dwelling sympathisers.

By yesterday afternoon the fans had reached the traditional rallying point of Trafalgar Square, where Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, ordered the fountains turned off.

Scotland last attended Wembley in 1988, when they lost. The regular Scotland-England fixture was abandoned in 1989 after crowd violence at Hampden

Park in Glasgow. Scottish supporters would like it reinstated.

Fences were being installed at Wembley yesterday to improve segregation between the fans. Scottish supporters have an allocation of 8,190 seats, but police expect between 15,000 and 20,000 in the 76,000-capacity stadium. CI Turkey were eliminated last night after being beaten 1-0 by Portugal.

Acquaintance renewed, page 56

Beatles producer and Van Morrison honoured

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE MARTIN, the Beatles' mentor, and Van Morrison, the singer who moved President Clinton with his peace anthem for Northern Ireland last November, are included in the Queen's Birthday Honours today.

Martin, 72, dubbed "the fifth Beatle", is knighted for his work in the music industry. Morrison, or "Van the Man" as millions know him, is appointed OBE. He led an 80,000-strong crowd singing *Dogs Like Us* during the President's visit to Belfast.

The list contains 1,041 famous and barely-known recipients as John Major continues his drive to reward those nominated by their local communities. A striking feature of the list is the decision to make three of Tony Blair's closest colleagues Privy Counsellors, marking a symbolic change to the status of the Shadow Cabinet. Such an honour is generally reserved only for politicians with Cabinet experience or for Opposition leaders.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, and Donald Dewar, the Chief Whip, have each been elevated to the body, with Don Dixon, the former senior Labour Whip.

Among those knighted is Judge Stephen Tumm, the former Chief Inspector of Prisons. Celebrities from the arts world dominate the list, however, with Dora Bryan, the actress, appointed an OBE, Harvey Goldsmith, the rock concert promoter, a CBE, and Felicity Lott, the soprano, created a dame.

Jeremy Isaacs, director of the Royal Opera House, is knighted, while David Plowright, the Channel 4 deputy chairman, is appointed a CBE. Two bestselling authors figure in the list: Ruth Rendell is created CBE, and Joanna Trollope is appointed OBE.

Full list, pages 12-14

M&S beef ban

MARKS and Spencer launched a nationwide advertising campaign in the French press yesterday to reassure customers that it sold no British beef or items containing British beef products in its French shops. Page 6

Buying The Times overseas: Australia \$25, Belgium 2, France 20, Germany 20, Greece 20, Ireland 20, Italy 20, Japan 20, Korea 20, Luxembourg 20, Malaysia 20, Mexico 20, Netherlands 20, New Zealand 20, Norway 20, Portugal 20, Spain 20, Sweden 20, Switzerland 20, Taiwan 20, Thailand 20, USA 20, UK 20.

Tory rebel has golf injury

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

TERRY DICKS, the maverick Tory MP who has threatened to destroy the Government's fragile majority, has succeeded — on the golf course rather than in the Commons.

The MP for Hayes and Harlington fell at the third tee of his local Surrey golf club on Thursday and was left writhing in agony after fracturing his hip. He was taken to Runnymede Hospital in Chertsey, of which he has been an avid supporter, and they made sure he had a hip

replacement straightaway. He is under doctor's instructions not to move from his ward for a week. This means he will miss the Commons vote on divorce on Monday and wipe out John Major's crucial government majority of one.

Mr Dicks, 59, threatened to resign the Tory whip last week because he was furious that the Government appeared to be "pandering" to Sinn Féin. The whips see him as a far more difficult customer than the Euro-sceptics and keep an

eye on him everywhere but the golf course. His wife Janet said last night she had been horrified when he collapsed in front of her while they were playing. "What was so annoying is that I was two-up — and we'd paid for a full round."

Mrs Dicks would not say how long the recuperation would last, but Mr Dicks may yet surprise colleagues and turn up in an ambulance for Monday's vote.

Thomas Shuttford, page 9

Copper trader loses £1.2bn

By JON ASHWORTH

WORLD copper markets were reeling yesterday after the disclosure that a Japanese trader had run up losses of £1.2 billion in ten years of unauthorised trading.

Yasuo Hamanaka, former head of copper trading at Sumitomo Corporation, falsified books and records to conceal his activities. His actions were exposed in a joint investigation by regulators in Britain and America. The losses far exceeded the £830 million loss triggered by

Nick Leeson, who brought down Barings. They also dwarf last year's debacle at Daiwa Bank, where Toshihide Iguchi, a former car salesman, ran up losses of £700 million in 11 years' playing the US treasury markets. Copper prices fell 10 per cent in London after panic selling. The price has fallen by nearly a third in recent weeks. The Serious Fraud Office, with the City of London Police, started an investigation into the Sumitomo affair.

Mr Hamanaka, known as "the 5 per cent man" because of his market dominance, was relieved of his duties last month. He admitted unauthorised transactions and was dismissed.

Sumitomo says it will honour its obligations. The losses are unlikely to cripple the corporation, which has interests in oil, construction, property and finance.

Market panic, page 29
Tempus, page 32



Dr Thomas Shuttford, medical columnist of The Times, has been appointed MBE for political services. A lifelong Conservative, he has served as MP for Norwich South.



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Money-making venture banned from recruiting

By ROBERT MILLER

A MONEY-MAKING scheme that has attracted 9,000 people who have paid £2,500 each was declared an "unlawful lottery" and suspended by the High Court yesterday.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Richard Scott said he regarded the administrative structure of the multimillion-pound venture as "highly unsatisfactory, highly suspicious and thoroughly undesirable".

He ordered that no further "revivalist-style" meetings be held to promote the Titan Business Club and banned it from recruiting new members or taking any more money from them. Sir Richard, who

headed the arms-to-Iraq inquiry, said the scheme and its associate companies were bound to fail one day and those who joined last would inevitably lose their money.

Titan, which was described in Parliament by David Rendel, Liberal Democrat MP for Newbury, as "an iniquitous pyramid-selling scam", will have to wait until a full hearing on the Department of Trade and Industry's petition to wind up the company before it will know whether the scheme is finished in Britain.

British members were recruited at packed meetings with what Sir Richard

described as throbbing music and rhythmic clapping. New members paid £20 to attend, signed confidentiality clauses and handed over £2,500. They in turn were expected to recruit four or five members by which time they would recoup their initial outlay.

Of the £2,500 joining fee, recruiters and their senior managers received £450 and £770 respectively. The remaining £1,280 was split between three consultants from SHV, the Titan management company based in Hamburg, Germany, with at least £355 being taken back to Germany.

It is estimated that since last October when Titan started up in Britain that more than £22 million has been collected. The court was told that SHV, which appeared to have no formal structure or offices and named Kirsten Elmers as the sole director, had some 11½ million marks in its bank account.

Titan, which also has schemes in Denmark, Holland, Austria and Spain, has no British registered offices and no British bank account. It is said to have signed up 120,000 members worldwide. Titan meetings scheduled for this weekend will have to be cancelled and possibly thousands of British investors who have signed up but not recruited anyone stand to lose their money.

Of SHV, which recently unilaterally raised the joining fee to £3,000, Sir Richard said he found the administrative structure "highly unsatisfactory, highly suspicious and thoroughly undesirable".

Lawyers for Titan said in court that plans to create a new American company, Titan Incorporated, had been put on hold.

As *The Times* disclosed last month Titan has signed up Professor Patrick Minford — one of the UK's most respected economists and a member of the inner circle of six "wise men" who advise Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor — to advise on the US plan. This involved seeking a listing on the American Nasdaq stock market: investors would be issued with shares which it was said could then be traded. Titan has given an undertaking in court not to carry on such business.

The Department of Trade and Industry has forwarded a file on Titan to the Serious Fraud Office, which is now conducting a preliminary investigation. It is also understood that the Inland Revenue's special investigation unit is conducting its own inquiry into money raised in Britain and immediately exported to Germany.



Con Cluskey, left, and his brother Dec, who are both enthusiastic members of the Titan Business Club

Club members split over legal restraint

TWO members of The Bachelors, the 1960s band which had hits with *Diane* and *I Believe*, last night criticised the Department of Trade and Industry's decision to close the Titan Business Club. Brothers Con and Dec Cluskey are both members of the club.

Since the Department began moves against Titan, hundreds of anxious club members have phoned *The Times* for information. As word of yesterday's injunction to halt Titan's business in the UK spread there were mixed reactions, from anger at the department's "high-handed approach" to strong resentment at Titan "senior partners" for not revealing that the business club was the subject of a court action.

The Cluskeys, who were playing at a concert in Cardiff last night, said: "A lot of showbusiness names are members and we love it. The court judgment is a great pity. My wife Sandy is at this moment in Spain as the club started its presentations there last week in Alicante. If

upwards of 10,000 Titan members are denied their ability to create wealth it goes against all the Tories stand for."

Another reader, who asked to remain anonymous, said he would seek legal advice on whether he could take action in the small claims court to recover money from the Titan partners because they had failed to alert him about the department's investigation.

Linda D'Silva, a senior partner of Titan from West Sussex, said: "The Titan Business Club provides its members with a vehicle for financial freedom. For many members this is a full-time occupation and their only source of income."

Simon Marlow, also from West Sussex and a senior Titan partner, said: "We are all too well aware of the damage that a lack of money can cause to our society, making people desperate and occasionally looking for shortcuts to earn an income. This is a truly positive business as it reverses this prospect."



Changed man: the quiet-spoken, bespectacled writer who quoted Nabokov in court and, right, a 1968 picture of Britain's most-wanted man

Jury backs McVicar, retired villain, in suburban row over neighbour and dog

By PETER FOSTER

JOHN McVICAR, former armed robber turned media criminologist, proved himself on the right side of the law yesterday after successfully conducting his own defence against a charge of assaulting his neighbour.

Mr McVicar, 56, was alleged to have caused actual bodily harm to Scott Caisley, 27, an advertising sales manager, in a row over their dogs in which Mr Caisley suffered a broken nose. Mr McVicar said he had used reasonable force after suffering the first blow.

After the unanimous not-guilty verdict at Kingston Crown Court, Judge John Baker commended Britain's one-

time most wanted man, saying he had represented himself "with great skill and ability".

In the incident last November, he went to his neighbour's house to complain that he had been bitten by Mr Caisley's Labrador-Rhodesian ridgeback cross. It was alleged that Mr McVicar said: "Your dog bit me and my dog."

Mr McVicar's dog bit me and my dog. Mr McVicar — whose life story was made into a film starring Roger Daltrey — was alleged to have head-butted Mr Caisley repeatedly and put his hands around his throat.

Mr McVicar, bespectacled and softly spoken, detailed medical evidence that he said proved he had not head-butted Mr Caisley, of Battersea, south

London, whom he described as "a nit-picking, logic-chopping type of person". A friend, the novelist and journalist Will Self, was in court to give moral support as Mr McVicar also quoted the Russian author Vladimir Nabokov — "God is in the detail" — and a Spanish proverb: "To deny all is to confess all."

He also touched a scar on his forehead, which he said he had gained in the altercation. Mr McVicar said he was heavily involved in the crime world in the 1950s and 60s but had lived without crime for 18 years.

Mr McVicar, born in West Ham, London, was a grammar schoolboy and junior chess champion whose

criminal career began in 1956, with a conviction for carrying an offensive weapon, and included spells in borstal for robbery. In 1966, he was serving time for robbery and assault when he escaped from a prison coach and spent four months on the run. Another 15 years were added to his sentence for robbery and firing on a police car.

He escaped from Durham Prison in October 1968, remaining at large for two years before recapture. Another three years were added to his sentence. By 1972 his rehabilitation was under way and by 1977 he had a sociology degree. Since being paroled, he has written extensively on criminal and penal issues.



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY



Joanna Zinkin: stabbing

Daughter left mother scarred

THE adopted daughter of a psychotherapist was sent to a psychiatric hospital indefinitely yesterday for scarring her mother in a knife attack. Joanna Zinkin, 24, is accused of stabbing her mother, Mrs. Zinkin, in the back with a kitchen knife. Joanna Zinkin, 24, is accused of stabbing her mother, Mrs. Zinkin, in the back with a kitchen knife. Joanna Zinkin, 24, is accused of stabbing her mother, Mrs. Zinkin, in the back with a kitchen knife.

Zinkin, 24, suffered from a history of mental illness that led to fantasies and obsessions, the prosecution said. "She was obsessed about becoming a model, but was particularly obsessed about a tiny mark on her face which had resulted from a minor incident in her childhood," Mr Dennis said.

Chauffeur jailed for road attack on moped rider

By KYLE SMITH

A LIMOUSINE chauffeur who throttled a moped rider until he was unconscious was jailed for nine months yesterday. The judge commented that "road rage" had become an epidemic.

Tony Hart used the door of his Daimler to knock Charles Jeffreys off his moped. Mr Jeffreys said that Hart had grabbed him by his crash helmet and smashed his head repeatedly against the road. Hart, 28, an employee of the London Limousine Company, then set about throttling him. A jury convicted Hart of actual bodily harm last month. Sentencing him at Southwark Crown Court yesterday, Judge Butler, QC, said: "I have no doubt you were the aggressor throughout. As I indicated when you were last before me, this kind of offence is now only too prevalent. I myself have dealt with four such offences in the past months."

"Although it is right to say that the injuries were not of the most serious kind, nevertheless I am sure that had it not been for the intervention of a bystander you would have caused even more serious injuries to your victim." He also noted that Hart, of Fulham, southwest London, had a previous conviction for causing grievous bodily harm to his father in 1989. He had been jailed for six months.

The trial was told that Mr Jeffreys, 37, of Battersea, south London, had been cut up by the Daimler at a roundabout. He shook his fist and gestured

at Hart, who then screamed to a halt and, after a fierce dispute, knocked Mr Jeffreys off his moped.

"My ankle was twisted and the motorbike was on top of me. I couldn't move," Mr Jeffreys told the court. "He jumped on my back and was punching me. He held my head in a throttle grip and was twisting it. I lost consciousness for a few minutes." He was taken to hospital after a passer-by went to his aid.

Hart told police: "He was piddling around and I was going to work. He was going slow." Mark Fenhalls, in mitigation, said that Mr Jeffreys' injuries were superficial. "I don't seek to blame Mr Jeffreys but I can't get away from the fact that he did make the first approach."

Mr Fenhalls also argued that his client was a victim of intense media interest in "road rage". He added that Hart's previous conviction should not be held against him because it had resulted from a family dispute.

Three men forced a driver to stop his car before beating him in the middle of the road. The victim, aged 41, was driving in Wolverhampton on Thursday evening when he was overtaken by a red or orange Rover Metro and forced to stop.

The men got out and dragged him from his vehicle before beating him about the head and driving off. The man suffered scratches to his face, head and hands. Nothing was stolen in the attack.

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SAGA

Pagans challenge rail link through sacred ancient site

By JAMES LANDALE

PAGAN will meet peer in an extraordinary Parliamentary confrontation next week when followers of the ancient Norse god of Odin will urge the House of Lords to change the route of the Channel Tunnel rail link.

Members of the Odinic Rite, one of Britain's leading heathen religions, will appear on Monday before a Lords committee examining the rail link. They will deliver a formal petition urging peers to divert the route from a site in Kent which they consider the most sacred ground in England.

The Rite, a registered religious charity founded in 1973, worships Gods such as Odin — known as Woden by early Anglo-Saxons — Thor and Freya after whom the days of the week are named. The religion was brought to England by Jutish and Viking invaders as they displaced the Romans and Celts in the first few centuries of the millennium.

Although the Rite's senior priests, known as the Court of Goths, wear black habits when they worship, they will appear before the committee in suits. Under current plans, high speed trains would pass



Freya, wife of Odin, was Norse goddess of love, marriage and the dead. Odinists worship her

only yards away from the White Horse Stone, near Sandling in Kent, where Odinists hold open-air ceremonies, known as "blots". Rituals include weddings, known as handfastings, the naming of children and scattering the ashes of the dead.

The Odinists argue that noise from the trains, which will emerge from a tunnel just north of the site, will disrupt their blots. They are demanding that the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill is changed so that the tunnel is extended by some 340 metres. Such a move

belief in England. "The stone marks the veritable birthplace of the English nation and is of direct and special concern to all people of English descent throughout the world," the petition says.

"The impairment of the immediate environment of the White Horse Stone directly and specially affects the petitioners and the deeply cherished religious rights of all the Odinists in England."

Ralph Harrison, one of the petitioners, known as Ingvar, said: "We see the battle as relevant not just to us, but English people everywhere, because this is the starting point of the English nation. It brought about our customs, traditions and laws and the religion that Odinists have followed to this day."

Several thousands people are thought to be regular worshippers. They believe in the close links between nature and gods, whom they invoke at meetings. Odin, the God of "war, wisdom and inspiration", is principal deity among a pantheon of gods and goddesses.

At meetings, Odinists drink mead, which they believe represents wisdom, or pour it on the floor as a libation for the Gods.

would cost millions of pounds, but Andrew Lawton, one of the petitioners, said: "We believe we have a 50-50 chance."

The stone, a scheduled ancient monument, is sacred to Odinists because it marks the spot of the Battle of Aylesford. Here in AD 455 a Jutish or Anglo-Saxon prince called Hengest defeated Vortigen, a Celto-British king, and established the first Anglo-Saxon kingdom in England.

Effectively the battle signalled the start of a brief period when Nordic paganism became the most widespread

Duke leads tribute to founder of the Globe

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A BRONZE bust of Sam Wanamaker, the American actor and director, was unveiled by the Duke of Edinburgh at the newly completed Globe Theatre yesterday.

Wanamaker, the inspiration for more than 20 years behind the construction of a working replica of the theatre on its original site in south London, died from cancer at the age of 74 in 1993. His daughter, Zoë Wanamaker, herself an actress and other members of the family were there to watch the unveiling of the memorial which established June 14 — the anniversary of his birth in 1919 — as Founder's Day.

The Duke, who is patron of the theatre, said one of the oak beams had come from Windsor Great Park. "I don't know which one it is, but if it falls down, it will be that one," he said.

The Duke was presented with a golden time capsule for his six grandchildren, in which they will place items of their own choosing to be buried under the theatre in time for its official opening in June.



Zoë Wanamaker with the bronze bust of her father, Sam, at the Founder's Day ceremony

Manager of earl's farm jailed for growing cannabis

By A STAFF REPORTER

A FARM manager who secretly grew 900 cannabis plants on the estate of his former employer, Earl Waldegrave, was jailed for four years yesterday. John Lucksted, 51, was appearing for sentence at Bristol Crown Court.

Lucksted, now living at Clifton, Bristol, was told by Judge Toyn that he was involved in "determined cultivation" with intent to supply. He had to pass a serious sentence to discourage others from following in Lucksted's footsteps.

Lucksted, who is married with four children, was convicted on April 10 at Bristol. He had denied a charge of cultivating cannabis with intent to supply at Rookery Farm, Chewton Mendip, Somerset, where he was employed. He had earlier admitted producing the plant between January and September last year. He also admitted possessing cannabis resin and cannabis. Lucksted further admitted illegally abstracting about £3,000 of electricity to help in the plant-growing process.

The court was told that when police raided Rookery Farm, the home of the elder

brother of the Treasury Secretary William Waldegrave, in September, they found plants, some as tall as four feet, growing in three specially prepared sheds. There were specialised heating and watering systems.

Lucksted said in evidence that he was growing the plants solely for his own use and as a hobby. He said he had not revealed the plants to his friends, including those who smoked cannabis.

Lucksted began growing the plants when he realised that his habit was costing him about £5,000 a year. The court heard expert evidence that the total yield might be worth about £70,000.

Owen Davies, for Lucksted, said that the cultivation was literally "nipped in the bud". He maintained that the plants were for social use with friends, rather than for commercial supply.

The judge pointed out that the cannabis was grown secretly in outbuildings and with a considerable degree of sophistication. He ordered Lucksted to pay prosecution costs of about £750.

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Beef crisis: hopes of early breakthrough fade in ministers' campaign to lift global export ban

Power stations burn slaughtered cattle in quest for cheap fuel

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT, AND CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

A SMALL power station in the Midlands has been given the go-ahead to burn rendered meat and bone from the Government's cattle slaughter scheme.

PowerGen, which has a test station at Ratcliffe, Nottinghamshire, will assess the viability of the products as a fuel. The industry hopes that such a fuel could deliver profits of up to £15 million over the next two years.

National Power is expected to receive similar approval from the Environment Agency next week for a small power station at Didcot, Oxfordshire. The agency said that the products did not include any material from cows diagnosed with, or suspected to have, BSE. Offal, in which the infectious agent can be found, has also been removed.

The purpose of the tests,

Sales of beef, which have never recovered fully from the BSE scare, have taken a further dive in the past two weeks. Year-on-year sales for the four weeks to June 2 were 27.08 per cent down on 1995, whereas the 12-week period covering the time since the possible connection between BSE and CJD in humans was first admitted showed a decline of 24.23 per cent.

which will be carried out over six weeks at the one-megawatt Ratcliffe station, is to see how well rendered meat, bone and tallow burn and what the environmental emissions might be. Scientific experts, advising the Ministry of Agriculture, have concluded that incineration

of cattle material in power stations would be safe, with no risk to communities near by or downwind.

It will be the first time that electricity generators have been used for the mass incineration of animals. If the tests are successful, the beef products will be pumped into bigger, coal-fired stations.

The generators were asked by the Government to help with the huge task of incinerating cattle culled because of the BSE crisis. It is likely that power stations close to abattoirs will be used once the full operation begins. Small amounts of the beef products will be fired in the generation process, along with the coal.

Under a BSE-eradication plan being considered at a meeting of Europe's senior veterinary officers in Brussels yesterday, Britain has offered



How France-Soir's cartoonist depicted the latest developments in the beef crisis

to cull 80,000 high-risk older beasts. However, a full-scale use of cattle products as fuel would require generators to consider other issues, such as the concerns of local residents and workers.

Roger Lilley, industry and pollution spokesman for Friends of the Earth, said yesterday: "This obviously represents a new departure for

the power industry. We hope that there will be comprehensive monitoring of the emissions, particularly of the organic compounds, such as dioxins, which may well be produced from the burning of animal matter."

"We would like to see proper evaluation of any effects on public health, particularly of the communities living near

by. Our other main concern is that this appears to be yet another example of how industry is being allowed by the Government to circumvent the normal processes of applying for planning permission for waste disposal. It appears that the Government is happy to turn a blind eye to the power stations operating as de facto animal waste incinerators."

European vets show reluctance to approve British remedy

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN'S plan for easing the ban on beef exports earned a mixed review from European veterinary officials yesterday, raising new doubts over the chances of defusing the BSE crisis before next week's EU summit in Florence.

After a day examining Britain's anti-BSE measures and its scheme for lifting the ban, the EU Standing Veterinary Committee indicated that it was unlikely to deliver a verdict, leaving it up to EU leaders next week.

"A majority of member states were supportive of the framework idea and were prepared to work on this basis," a British official said. However, German officials among others voiced strong reservations about aspects of both the eradication programme and the British framework plan to phase out the ban. Keith Meldrum, the Chief Veterinary Officer, said: "It's up to the Prime Minister how to take it forward."

Britain remained under pressure from the Commission and the other states to extend its plan for a selective cull to include animals born since 1989. Britain has offered a cull of cattle born since 1990 into herds where animals of the same age had contracted

BSE, estimated at 80,000 animals.

The veterinary committee, which must endorse every step in the BSE affair through a qualified majority vote, will give guidance to foreign ministers who meet in Rome on Monday to prepare for the Florence summit next Friday. On Tuesday, the Commission is to take a position on the framework but will not seek a formal vote. Some veterinary officials said they did not want to be rushed into decisions, the basis of Britain's broad eight-page plan.

On Tuesday the Commission is likely to draft a political, rather than a technical, proposal for a possible accord in Florence in which the other states agree to the outline of a phase-out, with no dates, in return for a commitment from John Major to end his blocking drive.

The brief, five-step framework plan is deemed by the Commission to be general enough to satisfy Germany. France and the other states which are under fierce domestic pressure to yield no ground to Britain. Britain has made no friends with its blocking campaign and its case has been further hindered by the news this week that it had exported suspect animal feed to France and other continental states.

A key point in the framework is the absence of dates for lifting the embargo. Britain is pressing first for the right to export beef to non-EU countries. The other four steps cover exemptions from the ban for exports of cattle embryos, of live animals born after Britain's plan to wipe out "mad cow" disease and ban suspect feed, of beef from herds certified to be free of the disease, and of meat from animals under 30 months old.

Meanwhile, the European Court of Justice agreed to hear Britain's request for an interim ruling on suspending the ban next Wednesday. The full court in Luxembourg will hear British lawyers argue that the Commission exceeded its powers in imposing the ban and that the British meat industry would suffer irreparable damage from it.

The Court will probably issue its ruling two weeks later. A full hearing on Britain's complaint will not take place before the autumn at the earliest.



Meldrum believes Major will respond

M&S reassures French shoppers

FROM BEN MACINTYRE AND SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THAT outpost of British cuisine in France, Marks & Spencer, ran advertisements in French newspapers yesterday promising readers that not a trace of British beef was to be found in its French shops. As the wave of anger over imports of suspect animal feed continued unabated, the retailer sought to reassure its French customers that they were in no danger of being poisoned.

In spite of last week's slight relaxation by the European Commission of the ban on British beef, the Marks & Spencer advertisement announced in capital letters: "No derivatives of British Beef are used in our products."

It went on: "No article currently sold in Marks & Spencer's French shops contains derivative products of British beef, notably beef gelatine of British origin."

The advertising campaign was orchestrated to cover each of the 17 French cities in which the company has outlets. It was prompted by calls on June 6 for a consumer boycott of all products containing British

beef derivatives by the French Consumers Union.

At one of the two Marks & Spencer shops in Paris yesterday, staff distributed leaflets emphasising that no British beef or British beef by-products were on sale.

"I think it's a good marketing ploy but who knows if these products are the only ones affected? Every night we hear something new," Didier Mijnot, a shopper, said.

"They would have to be crazy to sell something that wasn't perfectly healthy, wouldn't they?" Pierre Renoux said.

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, called for calm as the French media and politicians continued to rail against Britain for permitting massive sales of suspect feed to France after it was banned in Britain. "Let us not sow panic among the French people through distorted information," M Juppé said. Meanwhile, Paris expressed "solidarity" with London over the beef crisis but did not say whether France would back Britain's latest plan to eradicate BSE.

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Agency was like a cult where would-be models were dominated and raped, jury told

Former policeman 'lured teenage girls into sex abuse trap'

By KATE ALDERSON

A MIDDLE-AGED former policeman ran a model agency in the style of a religious cult, luring scores of teenage girls and sexually abusing them over 13 years, it was alleged yesterday.

Peter Martin selected aspiring young models, most of them 16-year-old virgins, and raped or molested them after charming their parents into thinking their daughters were safe with him. Manchester Crown Court was told.

Some of the girls lived under a strict regime in a place he called the Model House, where he was the dominant figure in a "strange, perverted family situation". Helen Grindrod, QC, for the prosecution, said. The sex was often violent, involving hair-pulling and face-slapping, and sometimes the girls would be bound and gagged. They felt brainwashed and one girl had told police: "It was like a religious cult without the religion."

Mr Martin, 56, of Sale, Greater Manchester, denies eight rapes, one on a girl under 16, and six indecent assaults, five of them on girls under 16. He also denies two charges of taking indecent photographs of girls under 16. Tracey Grainey, 29, his co-defendant and former girlfriend, denies four counts of indecent assault, three of them jointly with Mr Martin and all on girls aged under 16.

The 17 charges relate to the



Grainey: accused of indecent assault

years from 1981 to 1994 when Martin was running model agencies in Manchester. The jury was told these were only specimen charges and that further allegations of rape and indecent assault would be heard.

Girls as young as 11 were struck by the glamour of modelling and answered adverts for Martin's model agency, initially called Model Team International and later Central Models. They were interviewed by Mr Martin, who spoke to their mothers. They were delighted to be accepted by the agency. "He let it be known he was an ex-policeman, a man who could be safely entrusted to look after these girls, some of them

no more than children," Mrs Grindrod said. "Parents were told their children had exceptional talent with the prospect of a great career. They were charmed by Peter Martin."

The girls attended modelling classes on Saturdays and Sundays and some were invited to live at the Model House, seven miles from the agency. "It is not suggested that nobody ever did any modelling work," Mrs Grindrod said. "What is suggested and the evidence will tell you is that a large number of these girls who went to that agency were selected by Peter Martin for sexual abuse."

On occasion up to 20 girls lived in the house. "Each evening they were told whether to go upstairs to the front room or into the cellar." The girls could not use the telephone or go out without permission. Friendships were discouraged. Many were given tablets which they were told would help them to relax. "They were taken out for meals and given drink with friends — some of them rich and powerful like Owen Oyston. They thought this was the good life beginning for them."

The second charge of taking indecent photographs related to videos of girls asleep at the Model House, Mrs Grindrod said. Close-ups were taken of their private parts. Police discovered a spyhole

between Martin's bedroom and a bathroom. Martin sat around the house wearing only his underpants and encouraged the girls to touch with a vibrator. He created an atmosphere in which "this was all great fun". Miss Grainey, from Atherton, near Wigan, joined the agency when she was 16 and came under Mr Martin's influence. "But she stayed on and helped Martin in his manipulation of those girls. She drew up and wrote out

and pinned up the house rules. 'No underwear in bed', for example."

She was alleged to have encouraged the girls to believe that sexual touching and intercourse were normal and to submit to Mr Martin's advances.

Mr Martin attended classes and girls were regularly weighed while naked, it was alleged. He was said to have used a hidden camera to film girls undressing in the changing rooms on 482 occasions.

The youngest of these was 10 and 107 of them were under 16. "Girls became aware of the importance of their 16th birthday because once they were 16 Martin regarded them as fair game," Mrs Grindrod said.

"When they turned 16 he forced sexual intercourse on them. You will hear from girl after girl how this happened. 'Most were virgins and all were unwilling. Do not confuse submission with consent.' One girl told police: "He

played with my mind. It was almost as if I had been hypnotised. If he had told me to jump in the fire I would have done. I would have done anything for him."

A police investigation was prompted in 1994 when a 13-year-old girl complained to her mother about an act of indecency. Mrs Grindrod said that police searched the agency and Model House and found Martin hiding a box of 51 indecent videos in his loft. The case continues.



Peter Martin, left, arriving at court with his solicitor yesterday. He faces eight rape charges and four of assault

BBC2 chief prepares to switch channels

Michael Jackson, Controller of BBC2, is to succeed Alan Yentob as Controller of BBC1. Mr Jackson, 38, will also take on the new role of BBC Director of Television and will be responsible for co-ordinating the commissioning and scheduling across the two BBC channels. Mr Yentob is the new Director of Programmes.

Shooting retrial

A gun club member who shot dead a man trying to steal his car has been cleared of murder by Maidstone Crown Court. Martin Wise, 35, a gamekeeper from Hildenborough, Kent, will now be tried for manslaughter. He was released on bail.

Maxwell waits

The High Court yesterday reserved judgment until next week on a plea by Kevin Maxwell that Lord Justice Phillips, the judge who presided at his first trial, should be brought back for the hearing of further charges against him.

Veteran's award

John Wyatt, 73, a war veteran, has been awarded £1,640 compensation by the Army more than 50 years after being hit by enemy fire while crossing the Rhine. Shrapnel was found still to be lodged in his leg when he had X-rays for prostate problems.

Rape inquiry

Detectives were waiting to interview a girl aged nine after she alleged she had been raped by a boy of the same age on waste land at Bolton, Greater Manchester. The girl is understood to have been examined at a hospital's rape crisis centre.

A bridge too far

The bridge between the villages of Fornham All Saints and Fornham St Martin cannot carry a double decker bus, Suffolk County Council says. The bus company Eastern Counties says passengers will have to get off, walk over, and get back on again.

Heads tell exam pupils to ease the strain by watching football

By JOHN O'LEARY AND KIRSTIE HEPBURN

HEAD teachers are prescribing liberal doses of Euro 96 to combat examination fatigue. While parents worry that saturation coverage of the championship is encouraging GCSE and A-level candidates to fritter away valuable revision time, schools are optimistic that the distraction may improve results. Philip Evans, Headmaster of

Bedford School and a government adviser on education, said: "I am more worried about exam anxiety than any loss of revision time. It may do the boys good to watch a match: they are far too aware of what is at stake to let a football tournament get in the way."

Tony Mooney, the head of Rutish School, southwest London, where John Major was a pupil, said: "Euro 96 might be affecting some youngsters who are mad about football

but they should have done most of their revision by now in any case. My own son is taking GCSE and I have been encouraging him to watch some of the matches to get a bit of relaxation."

However, Margaret Morrissey, of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, criticised television companies for screening matches in the afternoon and early evening: "I think it is quite thoughtless to put these games on when it is

peak examination time and pupils should be either revising or doing their homework."

Some boarding schools have been controlling the number of matches their pupils watch. At Taunton School, Somerset, games have been taped if they clash with prep.

Most have left sixth-formers to exercise their own judgment, however. Tom Wheare, Head Master of Bryanston School, Dorset, said: "There is an ocean current sweeping

them through GCSEs and A levels, and if they can find a little distraction which enables them to get ashore for a bit, I say good luck to them." Anthony Hudson, Headmaster of Pangbourne College, Berkshire, said: "The football is a welcome respite from revision."

Dr Keith Topping, director of educational psychology at the University of Dundee, said: "It is possible that we might see a different gender bias, which might be attributed to

the football, with girls doing relatively better than in previous years."

With examinations continuing until the end of the month, football-loving teenagers in England may continue to be torn throughout the championship. Their Scottish counterparts will have no such distractions: public examinations have finished already.

Football, pages 53-56
TV, Vision section

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Unnatural angles of attack put players on course for pain



Countless contortions have taken their toll on the back of Severiano Ballesteros

By MEL WEBB

GOLF, by general consent, is one of the great non-contact sports, yet the history of the Royal and Ancient game is littered with tales of unpleasant injuries, of which that to the Tory MP Terry Dickson is just the latest.

It is a game that calls for its players to contort their bodies into several unnatural attitudes. Just watch Severiano Ballesteros address the ball, knees flexed and, most tellingly of all, upper torso slightly stooped forward. The recipe for pain is plain to see. When he goes on to swing the club, watch the angle of his body as he completes his follow-through. Multiply that by countless thousands over a distinguished career of more

than 20 years and it is little wonder that the great Spaniard has had a long-term acquaintance with back pain.

Millions of others at a more modest level will identify with Ballesteros and the hundreds of professional players who are fellow sufferers. Pain is not the exclusive province of the best: it is more democratic.

The mechanics of the golf swing are such that it involves many moving parts, and almost every one is in danger of being overstressed. Wrist tendons tighten, shoulders and necks stiffen, knees cave in, groins are strained, ankles ache. In addition, golf courses feature any number of hazards to trap the unwary — bunkers, ditches, potholes, steps. Talk to a golfer and listen to a litany of complaints

that would keep a physiotherapist busy for weeks.

By and large, complaints are what they are, especially for the merely mortal, and they do not prevent one playing the game. Serious damage, real bone-setting, out-for-years injuries, are less frequent. The classic case is the injury that put the career of Richard Boxall in jeopardy.

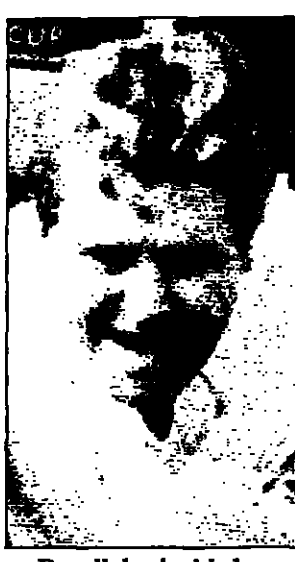
The incident occurred in the 1991 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale. The Surrey professional was three shots off the lead when he stepped on to the ninth tee. He had felt something strange in his left leg on the previous hole but had shrugged it off. He was not to know that within minutes he would be on the ground in agony.

Boxall walked on to the tee, had a practice swing, looked at the target and addressed the ball. He hit it well, too. But the click of the club-head contact was followed almost immediately by another dreadful crack as his left leg fractured.

Over the next 12 months Boxall spent countless hours with physiotherapists, wondering whether he would play professionally again. He also spent time encouraging Russell Weir, a Scottish professional who suffered exactly the same stress fracture a few months later.

Both are playing again, but the psychological injuries remain. Boxall will never forget the awful feeling as his leg folded beneath him that fateful day in Lancashire.

Golf news, page 49



Boxall: broke his leg driving off the ninth

Why golfers are statistically more likely than the bone idle to suffer a heart attack

By DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

GOLF may give great pleasure to those who play it, but it does not always improve their health. As Terry Dickson has found out, golfers are more likely than the idle to find themselves in an orthopaedic or cardiac ward.

A professor of cardiology once gave me lunch just before he retired. The business of the day

was soon completed and we started to discuss his retirement plans. He had decided that when freed of the demands of wards, outpatients and administration, he would move to a house overlooking a golf course. His serious academic face lightened as he described how he hoped to play two rounds a day.

Then he added: "But of course, as a cardiologist I know that the

golf will shorten rather than lengthen my lifespan."

I had assumed that the exercise derived from playing golf would increase the chances of making old age. But it seems that even when every confounding factor is considered, such as the alcohol and tobacco consumed in the clubhouse, the competitive nature of some, and exposure to the weather, golfers are statistically slightly

more likely to have a heart attack than their contemporaries.

The cardiologist left the table to demonstrate his swing. He pointed out that at the apex, with his arms high above the chest, he like other golfers held his breath for a second at the same time as his coronary circulation would be momentarily disturbed by changes in the intrathoracic pressure. This, the cardiologist had decided, was why more

players than could be expected on the basis of chance, played their shot, put their club in and their bag and collapsed.

When golfers hobble into my surgery, they do not blame the game. They merely resolve to iron out the deficiencies in their swing which have caused the problem. "It's not my back, doctor, it's the swing." Not many golfers have a faultless swing.

The spine is a delicate structure. The back consists of 24 vertebrae joined to the sacrum, which has five pieces, and the coccyx, which has four. The joints between the various vertebrae are twisted and stretched when the golfer swings and, if there is a disc that is liable to prolapse, or a joint that is arthritic, a clumsy or graceless swing will find it out. The swing that tests the spine also twists the

hip joints and the knees. Healthy hips and knees can take it but, if either have been damaged or weakened by bone disease or arthritis, there could be a price to pay. Overworked joints will swell, ache and hurt so that an exhilarating round in the afternoon may be followed by a struggle to climb the stairs and a night of pain. Old cartilaginous and ligamentous injuries can be exacerbated by golf.

MoD withheld evidence from officer's inquest

By ADRIAN LEE

TWO High Court judges criticised the Ministry of Defence yesterday for withholding evidence about the death of an Army captain during a shooting exercise in Kenya.

But the court refused a coroner's attempt to force a new inquest into the death of Captain Christopher Kelly, 26, of The Parachute Regiment, who was shot in the back during a night-firing exercise in 1994. Sir Montague Levine, the Southwark Coroner who conducted the inquest, had taken the unusual step of asking for the verdict of accidental death to be quashed. He said the inquest had not been told about safety warnings given before the shooting, and the availability of body armour.

Yesterday Lord Justice Pill, sitting with Mr Justice Newman at the High Court, said the evidence should have been heard but would have made no difference to the verdict. Captain Kelly's family wanted a verdict of unlawful killing, believing the Army to have been negligent.

In judgment, Mr Justice Newman said the MoD was wrong not to have supplied information about body armour. Lord Justice Pill said that if the ministry had with-

held the information to serve its own interests, as the coroner believed, it was liable to "serious criticism".

Major Peter Kennedy was not called by the Army to give evidence at the inquest. The coroner said that this resulted in a "serious deficiency". Major Kennedy had given warning several times of the risk of a serious accident.

After the hearing, Captain Kelly's mother, Suzanne, of Crowthorne, Berkshire, said she was considering a civil case against the MoD but it was unlikely. "The Ministry of Defence has covered up the truth. But the ministry has so much weight behind it, what can you do?"

A memorandum on Parachute Regiment notepaper, leaked to the family's supporters after the inquest, and which was not part of the evidence in the case, states that the wearing of body armour is discretionary "except during Field Firing when it is to be mandatory".

Captain Kelly, who had been in the wrong position during the exercise, was shot in the back by a colleague who mistook his silhouette for a dummy. He died five weeks later in hospital.

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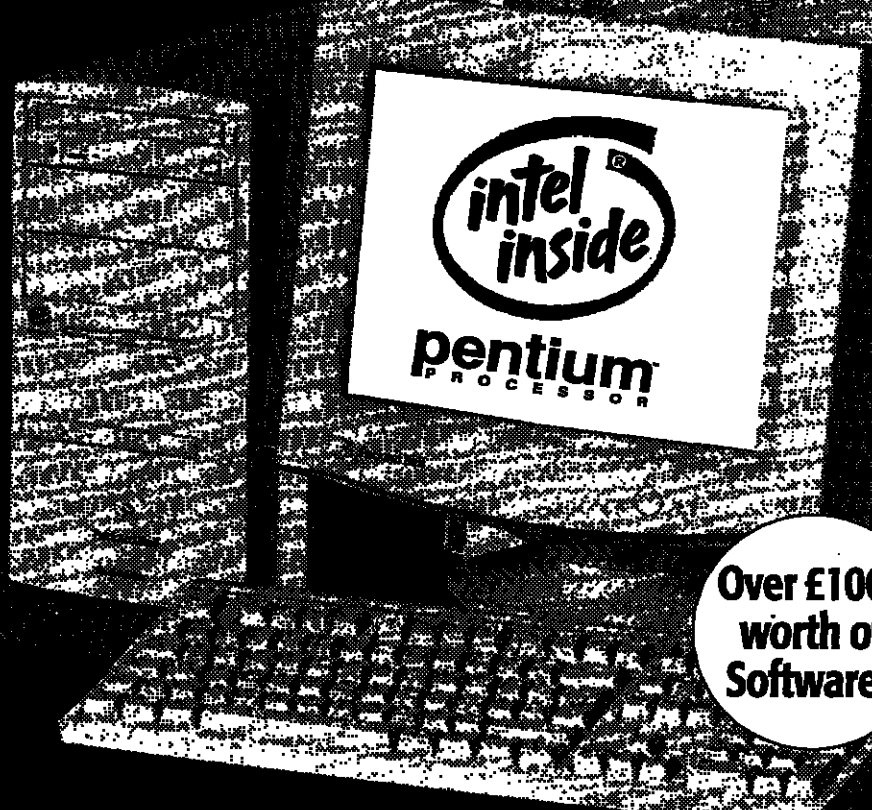
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'What's the world going to think if we allow something so rooted in our history to leave?'

Novelist collects literary jackpot

BY AUDREY MAGEE

THE world's biggest prize for a single literary work will be presented in Dublin today to the Australian writer David Malouf.

He became the first winner of the £100,000 international IMPAC Dublin literary award last month for his latest work of fiction, *Remembering Babylon*. He will receive his cheque this evening at a dinner at Dublin Castle.

"It is a lot of money but in the end, one way or another, money disappears. What does not disappear, one hopes, is the life of the book," Malouf said.

Remembering Babylon depicts the emotional upheaval of settlers to colonial Queensland in the 1850s and their relationship with Aborigines. The book was shortlisted for the Booker Prize, which offers a more modest £20,000.

The Dublin award was the dream of a former Lord Mayor, Gay Mitchell, now junior Foreign Affairs Minister, who wanted recognition for Dublin's great historical influence on international literature. He found a willing patron in IMPAC, an American management and consultancy firm that has its European headquarters in the city. The president and vice-president of the company are of Irish descent. They have pledged £2 million in prize money over the next ten years.

Malouf, 62, said it was fitting that the largest literary prize should come from Dublin. "Ireland has for a very long time now been a place that anybody who writes in English looks to. The Irish were the first people to take the English language and use it in a way that surprised and embarrassed people. Now we're all catching up."

His work was chosen from a shortlist of seven titles selected by libraries in 108 cities around the world. The six runners-up were John Banville's *Ghosts*; V.S. Naipaul's *A Way in the World*; Cees Nooteboom's *The Following Story*; Connie Palmen's *The Laws*; Jose Saramago's *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ* and Jane Urquhart's *Awake*. In all, 135 books were originally nominated.

Clergy back appeal to prevent export of Becket casket

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

MEDIEVALISTS and clergymen have joined the campaign to prevent a spectacular 12th-century casket believed to have held a relic of Thomas à Becket from leaving the country.

George Zarnecki, a leading medieval scholar, said: "It is the earliest known chasse with the scenes of Becket's death. It is not only the earliest but the most splendid of them all. There are about 45 in existence but they are all 13th-century or later. There is nothing of the size or quality of this one."

The Victoria & Albert Museum is trying to raise £1.5 million to acquire the chasse, or reliquary casket, which depicts Becket's murder and may have contained one of his bones, a fragment of clothing or a lock of hair. The 1190s piece, in cloisonné enamel and gilt copper, is to be auctioned by Sotheby's on July 4 on behalf of the British Rail Pension Fund, which acquired it and lent it to the British Museum.

The V&A, which describes the Limoges enamelling as without equal, is making an urgent appeal to the Lottery Heritage Fund for help. Because the casket was in a German collection before being bought by the BR fund, it is not bound by export rules.

The casket's provenance dates back to the 18th century, to a Roman Catholic family at St Neots and possible connections with Peterborough Abbey, Abbot Benedict, who went to Peterborough six years after the murder, had been a close associate of Becket and is known to have collected relics of his. Simon Caudron, another eminent scholar, believes that Benedict commissioned the casket shortly before his death and that it escaped from ecclesiastical ownership only during the Reformation.

Canon Jack Higham, chancellor of Peterborough Cathedral — a Benedictine abbey until the Dissolution — said Benedict, who went to Peter-



Becket: rapidly became a cult figure after death

borough in 1177, had been "in earshot of the murder". He wrote one of the earliest accounts of the event.

It would be tragic for such a piece to go overseas, he said. "It is part of our heritage. After all, Becket is one of the most famous of English people. The cult of Becket was important on the Continent as well. What's the world going to think of us if we allow something so rooted in our history to leave?"

Benedict is also said to have had a piece of stone stained with blood, either from the altar or a flagstone where Becket fell, and two phials of blood. The relics were dispersed at the Reformation.

Canon Higham expressed hope that, if the V&A acquired the casket, it could be lent at some stage to Peterborough, where the visitor centre displays a replica.

The Very Rev John Simpson, Dean of Canterbury, said: "I hope it might be kept in this country as it is a significant Becket artefact."

One of the chasse's panels depicts Becket being decapitated by a knight just as he is about to pick up a communion cup. Two knights stand by, armed with a sword and axe, while two priests watch.

The figures, each with repoussé copper heads, are set against cabochon rock crystals and blue enamelled medallions. The reliquary is crowned with a perforated gilt-copper crest.

Professor Zarnecki noted



Sarah Ingoldby of Sotheby's with the 12th-century casket that may have held a relic of Thomas à Becket

that the piece showed how quickly Becket's cult spread. "He was murdered in 1170, canonised in 1173, and this is one of the earliest representations in existence — apart from the mosaic in Sicily, which dates from about 1180."

Sandy Heslop, dean of the school of world art studies at the University of East Anglia, said: "It is an object of substantial importance. Because it represents Thomas à Becket,

it has an English significance. However, as such a high quality piece, the V&A would also be an appropriate home for it."

He added: "The whole Becket episode exemplifies the struggle for power between the Church and State in the late 11th and 12th centuries. Becket is important as a cultural phenomenon."

David Barrie, director of the National Art Collections

Fund, Britain's largest art charity, which has offered a grant of £100,000, said: "This is a wonderful work of art, an object of great rarity and beauty. If we're talking about heritage, how much more heritage could you be? Becket's tomb, within days of his murder, was a place of pilgrimage. The murder must have been like President Kennedy's assassination."

Like other public collec-

tions, the British Museum's purchase funds are severely restricted: its entire fund is just £1.25 million. A spokesman said: "The British Museum made an offer for the purchase of the casket under private treaty with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and the National Art Collections Fund, which was unsuccessful."

Leading article, page 25

British industry comes to the rescue of Millennium Exhibition

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SEVERAL leading British companies confirmed their support for the troubled Millennium Exhibition yesterday, allaying fears that the event may have to be scrapped because of insufficient private-sector funding.

Hours before a deadline set by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy

Prime Minister, for companies to support the year-long exhibition at Greenwich, southeast London, British Airways said that it would contribute £6 million. BAA confirmed it would be giving between £5 million and £10 million and British Aerospace pledged significant financial support.

The Corporation of London announced earlier this week that it would chip in £5 million towards

the Thames-side extravaganza. Last week Mr Heseltine, a member of the Millennium Commission, called 36 heads of leading companies to an emergency meeting and asked them to contribute.

Ministers hope the exhibition it will act as a tourist attraction and a shop window for British business. "We have had a good response. I am very pleased about it," Mr Heseltine said yesterday. Virginia

Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary and chairwoman of the Millennium Commission, has promised up to £200 million of lottery money provided that the private sector can offer a similar amount. The commission may also apply to the European Union's Regional Development Fund.

Robert Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, said that it would co-sponsor one of the 12 themed

pavilions that will form the centrepiece of the exhibition, which is to open on January 1, 2000. "As a British business we were keen to invest in something that will have a significant impact on the nation as a whole and its people, and will encourage overseas visitors."

Other companies understood to be interested in providing finance include British Petroleum; British Telecom; GEC; London Electricity;

BSkyB, the satellite television station in which News International, the owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake; Glaxo; and Smithkline Beecham.

Organisers of a rival bid to stage the exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, said that they would still be prepared to host the event if insufficient private-sector support was forthcoming for Greenwich.

THE TIMES



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Establishment dominates 'classless' honours

By ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

BRITONS are still making slow progress towards John Major's dream of a classless society and the Establishment still dominates the honours list.

Whitehall mandarins who administer the honours system, as well as being among its major beneficiaries, seem determined to ensure that the currency is not devalued by the inclusion of "classless" recipients.

Despite promises by Downing Street that many of the 1,041 names

on the new list have been awarded to "unsung heroes", most of those nominated for the higher honours still come from the ranks of the well-regarded.

Unless you are a Whitehall mandarin, Tory party contributor or showbusiness celebrity you are still very unlikely to be listed.

The Prime Minister made clear two years ago that civil servants could no longer automatically expect a gong, but just as many feature in this list as five years ago. There are 174 Whitehall bureaucrats today, almost 20 per cent of the list.

Permanent secretaries have suffered a little more than their juniors. Once their wives could all expect to become ladies but this time only Graham Hart, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health, was knighted, although nine others are already knights.

Tycoons have not done badly either. Sir James Goldsmith may have forfeited his peerage but eight captains of industry have been knighted, more than in Margaret Thatcher's last list.

Mr Major is even more partial to giving honours for political service.

More than 62 awards were made for political friends and sparring partners compared with an average of 35 since 1979.

Journalists are still not considered worthy but the *Daily Mail* crime writer Peter Burdon and the sports journalist Hugh McIlvanney are both OBEs.

In the higher ranks of the various orders of chivalry, lollypop ladies, voluntary workers, teachers, secretaries and women are still poorly represented while grey-suited administrators make their way straight to the top. Less than 31

per cent of the list was made up of women. Indeed, the number of women honoured has been falling slightly this decade after its heyday in 1989 when 36 per cent were given awards.

Downing Street triumphantly proclaimed that 40 per cent of the awards had been nominated by the public, compared with 35 per cent in the New Year's Honours List. Almost all the "unsung heroes", however, can only ever hope to step onto the lowest rung. About 44 per cent of awards for voluntary service fall into that category but they only

become MBE after spending years of shaking tins.

A total of 9,000 people were nominated by the public. The names included Father Christmas, Blur, Oasis, Eric Cantona and the Labour MP Dennis Skinner — for services to ballroom dancing.

Dick Roscoe, the honours secretary at Downing Street, said: "The Prime Minister's object was not to make the system classless. That would be impossible if you are awarding people for achievement. It was to give awards to people from a broader spectrum."

Murray Walker races to an OBE

By JOHN GOODBODY

MURRAY Walker, whose high-octane enthusiasm has made him the much-parodied voice of BBC's motor-racing coverage, has been appointed an OBE.

For once, Mr Walker, who is in Montreal for the Canadian Grand Prix, was unusually reticent. "I regard this as a tribute to the sport as much as to myself, because without motor-racing I would not be a commentator," he said.

This from a man who once said: "I do not make mistakes. I make prophecies which turn out to be wrong." Some of his most famous utterances have gone into folklore and have made him a much-loved figure since he first commented for the BBC at the British Grand Prix in 1949.

They have included: "Nigel Mansell, the man of the day, the man from the Isle of Man" and "an Achilles heel for the McLaren team this year and it is literally the heel because it is the gear box."

So synonymous with motor racing is Walker, 72, that ITV is considering asking him to continue commentating when it takes over screening the Formula One grands prix from the BBC next year.

Silver lining for man who has spent 50 years measuring rainfall

By CAROL MIDDLEY

A FARMER who has assiduously measured the daily rainfall in Kent for almost 50 years has been appointed MBE.

Alfred Day, 76, became a voluntary observer for the Meteorological Office just after the Second World War, recording rainfall data from the front garden of his home in Headcorn, Kent.

As one of the "ordinary" nominees in the awards, Mr Day was proposed by the Met Office, which was impressed by his accuracy and enthusiasm. He takes the measurements from a rain gauge and fills out the data on a chart. Mr Day is one of 2,500 rainfall observers in England and Wales who the Met Office rely on. As a farmer of fruit, vegetables and corn he was constantly mindful of weather conditions. A spokesman for

the Met Office said: "Our voluntary observers do it for love, often for decades of years, and we appreciate them a great deal."

Barbara O'Shea, who has patrolled a primary school crossing in Cheshire, for 30 years, is also appointed MBE. Mrs O'Shea's concern for the safety and welfare of children at Wincham County Primary School particularly impressed her employers and the headmaster.

"I started the job in 1966 and I have thoroughly enjoyed it ever since. It is the children who make it worthwhile — they are absolutely wonderful and their parents are so friendly they make me feel like one of them."

Mrs O'Shea, 64, received notification of her award five days after the funeral of her husband John, a policeman. "It took the shine off it but obviously I am very pleased

and surprised," she added. Robert Deeming, a blind pianist from Tyne and Wear who has played for charity for more than 50 years, is appointed MBE. Mr Deeming's sight was affected when he contracted measles and pneumonia when aged 6, but in 1966 he joined a group called the Canny Lads singing for charity events and old and disabled people.

Margaret Baker, also appointed MBE, has given 37 years' service as a voluntary and staff member to the British Red Cross Society. After 15 years in voluntary positions, she was appointed to the training department at national headquarters in 1974, later becoming its director.

She started the development of the society's first aid and care training activities, which today result in 300,000 people receiving qualifications every year. Although she retired in

1988, her enthusiasm, commitment and sense of humour have led to her being asked to help as a volunteer.

Peter Bisson, the coxswain for the RNLI's St Peter Port Lifeboat in Guernsey, is appointed MBE. He joined the crew in 1980, and was promoted to coxswain in 1986. He has been involved in a number of notable rescues including that of 29 crew from the motor vessel *Benita* in 1981, for which he received the Bronze second-service clasp; and six crew from the yacht *Sena Stioria* in 1992, for which he received the RNLI silver medal for gallantry.

Frank Carnall, from Colwyn Bay, North Wales, is appointed MBE for services to the Cardiothoracic Centre, Liverpool. Since his open



Peter Bisson, coxswain of St Peter Port lifeboat in Guernsey, is appointed MBE

heart surgery in 1975, Mr Carnall has campaigned tirelessly throughout North Wales for financial and public support for the work of the centre. He has raised more than £25,000 by organising collections, raffles and sponsored fundraising events. Wil-

liam Collins, 83, from Bourne-mouthe, is appointed MBE for services to the Not Forgotten Association. His devotion to the welfare of his fellow war-pensioners has been outstanding. Wounded at Dunkirk, he was invalided out of the Royal Air Force in 1945, and at the

age of 50 was medically retired from the Post Office. He became secretary of his local Dunkirk Veterans' branch and an enthusiastic fundraiser for the British Legion and the RAF Benevolent Fund. He has collected £30,000 in the last three years.

PRINCIPAL HONOURS

LIFE BARONESS

Dame Jane Kathleen Lloyd, Nuffield Professor of Child Health, British Postgraduate Medical Federation, London University, 1985 to 1992; now Emerita Professor.

BARONS

Marmaduke James Hussey, former chairman, Board of Governors, BBC.
Field Marshal Sir Richard Frederick Vasey, GBE, KCB, DSO, former chairman of the Military Committee, Nato.

PRIVY COUNSELLORS

James Gordon Brown, MP for Dunfermline East.
Robin Finlayson Cook, MP for Livingston.
David Maurice Curry, MP for Skipton and Ripon and Minister of the Department of the Environment.
Donald Campbell Dewar, MP for Glasgow Garscadden.
Don Dixon, MP for Jarrow.
Lord James Alexander Douglas-Hamilton, MP for Edinburgh West and Scottish Office Minister.
John Jackson, Baron MacKay of Arbroath, Social Security Minister.
Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, DL, MP for Walsden and vice-president of the 1922 Committee.

KNIGHTS BACHELOR

Philip Martin Bailhache, Bailiff of Jersey, for services to the community in Jersey.
James David Francis Barnes, CBE, chief executive officer, Zeneca Group, for services to the pharmaceuticals industry.
Professor Michael Victor Berry, FRS, Royal Society Research Professor, University of Bristol, for services to physics.
William Brown, CBE, former chairman, Scottish Arts Council and of Scottish Television, for services to the arts and to broadcasting.
Leonard John Chastrey, Lord Mayor of London, for services to the City of London.
John Anthony Craves, chairman, Morgan Grenfell Group, for services to banking and to the City.
Richard Harry Evans, CBE, chief executive, British Aerospace, for services to the aerospace and defence industries.
Professor David Paul Brades, director of research and development, Institute of Psychiatry, for services to medicine.
James Hama, CBE, for services to industry in Scotland.
Robert Hicks, MP for Cornwall South-East, for political service.
Stanley James Allen Hill, MP for Southampton West, for political service.
Jerome Isaacs, general director, Royal Opera House, for services to broadcasting and to the arts.
Elgar Spencer Jenkins, OBE, for political and public service.
David Robert Corbett Kelly, CBE, for political and public service.
William Herbert Laming, CBE, chief inspector, Social Services Inspectorate, Department of Health, for services to the social services.
George Henry Maria, CBE, chairman, Air Studios, for services to the recording industry.
Brian Scott Moffat, OBE, chairman and chief executive, British Steel, for services to the steel industry.
Professor Peter John Morris, FRS, Nuffield Professor of Surgery, chairman of surgery and director, Oxford Trans-

plantion Centre, for services to medicine.

Professor James Duncan Dunbar-Nasmith, CBE, for services to architecture.

Raymond Powell, MP, for services to the House of Commons.

Anthony Nigel Russell Rudd, chairman, Williams Holdings, for services to manufacturing industry.

James Sharples, QPM, Chief Constable, Merseyside, for services to the police.

Roger Edward Sims, MP for Chislehurst, for political service.

John James Skelton, FRS, director, National Institute for Medical Research, for services to science.

Professor Trevor Arthur Smith, for services to higher education.

Clive Malcolm Thompson, group chief executive, Rentokil Group, for services to industry.

His Honour Stephen Tomlin, former HM Chief Inspector of Prisons in England and Wales.

Roderick Myerstrong Walker, chairman, the Sports Council, for services to sport.

ORDER OF THE BATH

KCB

Graham Allan Hart, CB, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health.

William Kennedy Reid, CB, Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration and Health Service Commissioner for England, Scotland and Wales.

COMPAION OF HONOUR

Baroness Howe of Aberavon, QC, for political service.

ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

DBE

Mrs Fiona Caldicott, chairman, the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and president, the Royal College of Physicians, for services to medicine.

Miss Felicity Ann Eanwilya Lot, CBE, for services to opera.

Miss Sheila Valerie Masters, partner, KPMG, for services to the financial industry.

CMG

Michael Douglas McWilliam, director, School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, for services to higher education.

CMG

David Christopher Kelly, Dep Ch SO, MD.

ROYAL VICTORIAN ORDER

GCVO

Major Sir Shane Gabriel Basil Bletwin, KCVO, Keeper of the Privy Purse and Treasurer to the Queen.

The Rt Hon Sir Robert Fellowes, KCB, KCVO, Private Secretary to the Queen.

Baroness Howe of Aberavon, QC, for political service.

Miss Felicity Ann Eanwilya Lot, CBE, for services to opera.

Miss Sheila Valerie Masters, partner, KPMG, for services to the financial industry.

Michael Douglas McWilliam, director, School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, for services to higher education.

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KCVO

The Very Rev Thomas Eric Evans, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral.

James Hugh Neill, CBE, TD, former Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire.

CVO

Charles Vernon Aston, LVO, press secretary to the Queen.

John James Skelton, FRS, director, National Institute for Medical Research, for services to science.

Professor Trevor Arthur Smith, for services to higher education.

Clive Malcolm Thompson, group chief executive, Rentokil Group, for services to industry.

His Honour Stephen Tomlin, former HM Chief Inspector of Prisons in England and Wales.

Roderick Myerstrong Walker, chairman, the Sports Council, for services to sport.

LVO

Richard Winston Arthur, director of media affairs, Royal Collection.

Michael Lancelotti, CBE, for services to architecture.

Raymond Powell, MP, for services to the House of Commons.

Anthony Nigel Russell Rudd, chairman, Williams Holdings, for services to manufacturing industry.

James Sharples, QPM, Chief Constable, Merseyside, for services to the police.

Roger Edward Sims, MP for Chislehurst, for political service.

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RVM (gold)

Leslie Robert Simmons, the agronomist, Sandringham.

RVM (silver)

Leslie Robert Simmons, the agronomist, Sandringham.

John Alan Brown, the agronomist, Sandringham.

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Westfield College, for services to education.

Alastair Clements, former Regent of the Scottish Regatta Club.

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Crime pays for Wexford creator



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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JUNE 15 1996



Yasuo Hamanaka, known as "Mr 5 per cent", scrutinises copper stocks. Regulatory authorities are scrutinising his \$1.8 billion of illicit trading over ten years

Yorkshire plans to generate

By Christine Buckley

YORKSHIRE Electricity will pump up to £50 million a year over the next five years into generation in an effort to maximise unregulated earnings. Yorkshire, which joined other regional companies in announcing a price cut of 4 per cent on the back of the nuclear levy reduction, expects to reveal projects shortly. It will start construction on a £30 million gas turbine power station later this year, a project that will take two years. Yorkshire made £15 million from unregulated earnings last year, taking its pre-tax profits to March 31 to £219.3 million. That figure included a £20.1 million gain from the company's stake in the National Grid, which floated last year. The final dividend, payable on October 1, was set at 27.3p, making a total of 39.18p for the year. Accounting for a share consolidation, the aggregate dividend payment showed a 10 per cent increase.

Market panic over Sumitomo losses

By Jon Ashworth in London and Robert Whyman in Tokyo

PANIC gripped the London Metal Exchange yesterday, as police launched an investigation into trading losses of \$1.8 billion at Sumitomo Corporation, the world's largest copper trader. The price of copper fell 10 per cent in hectic trading, as regulators appealed for calm. Copper prices hit a low of \$1.860 a tonne overnight. The falls came as Sumitomo confirmed details of illicit trading by Yasuo Hamanaka, 48, a Tokyo-based trader known as "Mr 5 per cent" because his trading team was believed to control 5 per cent of the world's copper trade. There was speculation that losses could top \$2.5 billion if further undisclosed trades came to light. Casualties included RTZ-CRA, the world's biggest mining group, which saw its shares fall sharply in early trade. Shares in Delta, a cable and engineering firm, fell 8 per cent to 360p, after disclosing that huge fluctuations in the price of copper had hit profits. US

commodity stocks also came in for heavy selling in London. In a statement released in New York, Sumitomo said it had discovered significant unreported losses in its non-ferrous metals division caused by unauthorised trading over a decade by Mr Hamanaka, former head of copper trading. The company first uncovered evidence of Mr Hamanaka's activities on June 5. Preliminary estimates put the loss to the company at \$1.8 billion, at current copper prices. Sumitomo became aware of the transactions while assisting with an investigation of copper prices by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief UK financial regulator, and the US Commodities Futures Trading Commission. A senior SIB official flew to Washington this week for talks with Sumitomo officials. Mr Hamanaka was relieved of his trading duties in early May, and had been assigned to help with the investigation. Realising he was about to be

exposed, he confessed to a series of unauthorised transactions. These were intentionally concealed by falsifying books and records. He has since been dismissed. Sumitomo previously traded in London using Winchester Commodity Group, the metals broker associated with Charlie "Copperfingers" Vincent. Winchester was the subject of an investigation by the Securities and Futures Authority, but was never accused of misconduct. The SIB began investigating copper trading about five months ago — London is the main market for copper trading, and the LME sets prices that are used around the world. Markets in Tokyo reacted calmly to news of the latest scandal to sweep the troubled financial community. Tomichi Akiyama, president of Sumitomo, insisted that the trading house was financially strong enough to overcome the loss and had no plans to give up metal trading. He told a

Tokyo press conference: "The amount of the loss is huge, but, in view of the company's financial capacity and latent profits in stockholdings, there will be no problem in absorbing it." Sumitomo reported sales of \$152 billion last year. After a spate of scandals that have shaken confidence in Japan's financial system, the Sumitomo affair has deepened the mood of disgrace. So profound was the sense of shame that the senior government spokesman was moved to express concern that something was seriously amiss, not only among bankers and dealers, but in the Japanese nation as a whole. Seiroku Kajiyama, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, said: "The moral fibre of all Japanese has deteriorated." Japan is still reeling from the Daiwa Bank debacle, and the furor over reckless lending by Japan's home mortgage companies.

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Revised offer 'to benefit names'

By Sarah Bagnall

MORE than 90 per cent of Lloyd's names will be better off under the market's improved and revised settlement offer, according to David Rowland, the chairman of Lloyd's of London.

Next week the market is to send out to its 34,000 names further estimates of the amount of money they will have to pay to settle finally all their debts.

In March names were sent "indicative" statements by Lloyd's, providing them with the first indications of their indebtedness and share of Lloyd's settlement offer. At the time, the bills were capped at £100,000. However, since then the settlement package has been substantially improved, resulting in a reduction in the bills payable by 93 per cent of the market's names.

As a result, the number of names expected to be owed money by Lloyd's is set to rise from the original forecast of 5,000. Furthermore, the bills are expected to fall for a large number of the 16,000 names whose bills were expected to be less than their funds at Lloyd's. In contrast about 7 per cent of names are expected to be worse off under the new offer. Of these 1.6 per cent will have to pay up to £15,000 more.

Under the timetable, Lloyd's names are set to be sent a mass of documentation, the first of which was dispatched yesterday. Lloyd's has sent names details about the annual meeting, due to take place on July 15. This missive is being followed today by the posting of details on the extraordinary meeting, due to take place directly after the annual meeting.

Next Thursday Lloyd's intends to send out the second indicative statements with a 220-page document on the settlement. Final statements are due to be sent at the end of the month.

WEEKEND MONEY

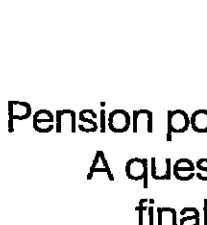


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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET			
FT-SE 100	3753.6	(-8.1)	
Yield	4.04%		
FT-SE All share	1894.58	(-3.22)	
Nikkei	22289.30	(+208.95)	
Dow Jones	5847.98	(-9.87)	
S&P Composite	668.64	(-1.28)	
US RATE			
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)	
Long Bond	8 1/4%	(8 1/4%)	
Yield	7.11%	(7.14%)	
LONDON MONEY			
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)	
Libor long	10 1/4%	(10 1/4%)	
Libor short	10 1/4%	(10 1/4%)	
STERLING			
New York	1.5361	(1.5351)	
London	1.5371	(1.5295)	
DM	2.3406	(2.3482)	
FF	7.9399	(7.9675)	
Sfr	1.5625	(1.5911)	
Yen	167.11	(165.04)	
S Index	85.6	(85.6)	
DOLLAR			
London	1.5361	(1.5271)	
DM	1.705	(1.7025)	
FF	1.2533	(1.2545)	
Sfr	1.0855	(1.0868)	
Yen	108.95	(107.5)	
S Index	97.1	(97.5)	
NORTH SEA OIL			
Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$17.30	(up)	
GOLD			
London close	\$384.25	(\$384.15)	

* denotes midday trading price

Charity to gain from Nationwide votes

By Jason Nissé

NATIONWIDE Building Society is to give donations to charity to encourage its 3.5 million members to vote at its annual meeting. The move is described by Nationwide as a breakthrough in promoting democracy within the society, which has rejected pressure to follow the likes of Abbey National and Halifax in converting to a plc. But critics see it as a way to stop the election to its board of outsiders who were not recommended by Nationwide's management.

The society is to give 10p to the Macmillan Fund for cancer relief for every voting form sent in, up to a limit of £25,000. This implies that it wants only

250,000 — or 7.1 per cent — of its members to vote. A spokesman said the limit was set to preserve members' funds. Nationwide last year offered a prize draw to members who voted, and received 230,000 voting papers. The previous year just 88,000 voted and the year before 103,000, of whom 53,361 voted for David English, a former area sales director made redundant by the society. He is up for re-election, but this time with the board's backing. Two candidates are not recommended by the board. There is also a motion from members proposing that boardroom pay is cut.

ONE of Britain's most respected industrialists has been knighted. Nigel Rudd, chairman of Williams Holdings, joins George Staple, director of the Serious Fraud Office, on the business podium in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. There are knighthoods, too, for Clive Thompson, chief executive of Renokit; David Barnes, chief executive of Zeneca Group; John Craven, of Morgan Grenfell; and Richard Evans, chief executive of British Aerospace. Brian Moffat, chairman and chief executive of British Steel, is knighted for services to the steel industry. Sir Nigel, 49, built Williams Holdings from a small engineering company to

CBI finds little change in wage settlements

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

PAY awards across the economy are broadly flat, the Confederation of British Industry says today in its latest assessment of wage settlements. The latest industrial figures on pay follow government data this week showing increases in average earnings remaining steady — and some independent evidence suggesting that, as inflation continues to decline, pay may be starting to fall back too.

In its latest pay databank, the CBI says that pay awards in the manufacturing and service sectors are largely flat. Provisional figures for manufacturing pay awards in the three months ending in May

show increases running at 3.6 per cent — the same as the previous three-month total, and broadly the same as the 3.4 per cent figure for the similar period a year ago. In the service sector, pay awards averaged 3.7 per cent for the period — again the same as the previous three months, and in line with awards of 3.6 per cent a year ago. □ Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, insisted yesterday that business wants Britain's future to be in Europe. Speaking at a CBI Business in Europe conference in Harrogate, he said business and the UK had to play a full role in shaping Europe's future.

Rudd knighted in Birthday Honours

By Jon Ashworth

ONE of Britain's most respected industrialists has been knighted. Nigel Rudd, chairman of Williams Holdings, joins George Staple, director of the Serious Fraud Office, on the business podium in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. There are knighthoods, too, for Clive Thompson, chief executive of Renokit; David Barnes, chief executive of Zeneca Group; John Craven, of Morgan Grenfell; and Richard Evans, chief executive of British Aerospace. Brian Moffat, chairman and chief executive of British Steel, is knighted for services to the steel industry. Sir Nigel, 49, built Williams Holdings from a small engineering company to

one of the UK's largest manufacturing businesses, since founding the company in 1982. Today it employs more than 15,000 people and has sales of more than £1.6 billion. Sir Nigel is non-executive chairman of Pilkington, the glass manufacturer, East Midlands Electricity and Pendaron, the motor vehicle distributor. He is a founder member of the foundation for manufacturing and industry. Mr Staple, who has had a turbulent ride at the SFO, becomes a Companion of the Order of the Bath. Sheila Masters, a partner in KPMG, the accountant, becomes a dame. Julia Cleverdon, chief executive of Business in the Community, is appointed CBE for services to training and to equal opportunities. Others in a

wide-ranging list of CBEs include John Armit, chief executive of Union Railways; Robert Beresford, chairman of Mott MacDonald Group; Trevor Bonner, managing director of GKN Automotive and Agrotechnical Products; Ewan Brown, director of Noble Grossart; David Malpas, managing director of Tesco; and Brian Stewart, chief executive of Scottish and Newcastle. Nigel Thompson, deputy chairman of Ove Arup and Partners, is appointed CBE for services to the construction industry. John Chalstre, the Lord Mayor of London, receives a knighthood for services to the City.

Honours, pages 12-14

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The constitutional skin of mutuality no longer fits

Mutual or plc, far-sighted or short-termist, corporate renewal or preservation in aspic, enhanced accountability or cushy executive comfort zone? Charge and counter-charge. All good stuff for the financial press at a time of turmoil for the financial services industry, whether the participants are banks, building societies or insurance companies.

Past performance is no guarantee for the future. So the success of the Halifax over recent years (an unimpeachable profit record) cannot be taken for granted in a future which sees plc as its operating form.

But the record is far from irrelevant as far as its customers and future shareholders are concerned. The value that has been built up by prudent management will be distributed to more qualifying investors and borrowers than in any previous share issue, including privatisations. The Halifax share register on vesting day could be the

biggest in the Western world. Most investors will likely receive more in value than they would in a couple of lifetimes of "mutuality dividend". For the majority, that dividend is worth only a few pence a year — a couple of gin and tonics — so it is no surprise that building society members are voting so overwhelmingly for their societies to change their constitution when they are given the choice.

Perhaps they recognise, too, that the dominant form of constitution for successful businesses delivering what customers want is the plc. It is not the mutual, the co-operative nor the state-controlled utility. Indeed, no one has suggested to me that Marks & Spencer or Tesco would be better businesses if they were mutual. Mutuality is fine for smaller or more narrowly focused organisations. But for one of Europe's biggest personal finance businesses that constitutional skin has been outgrown. Already the Halifax is more

than a traditional building society. It is a broadly based financial services group which will be even broader if policyholders of Clerical Medical vote next week to become part of the Halifax Group. But to be competitive in all the markets in which we currently and prospectively operate, and to deliver even better customer value, we need to convert to plc status. A change of constitution will give us access to cheaper wholesale funding as well as wider access to international capital markets to help us to diversify and expand. For those members who choose to remain as shareholders, it gives them a "double dip" of competitive interest rates and a dividend on their shareholding.

It is suggested that the need to pay the dividend will be at the expense of the customer. What a strange notion. Frankly, I am delighted that we will have to serve both customers and shareholders. We will not produce good earnings for the latter

EXECUTIVE VOICE



Mike Blackburn

unless in the first instance we have satisfied the former. And I really do hope — and expect — that millions of our present members will continue to choose both relationships. Obviously, City institutions will want their piece of the action, and I welcome that, too. They are not faceless, impersonal organisations. These are businesses that add to the value of ordinary people's pen-

sions or investments. They will certainly press us to show good profits, just as we expect customers to press us for the best products and services.

I want our customers to come to us for a much wider range of financial services, and I want us to be among the best in each new business area. Our branches will continue to focus on the personal customer — not corporates, either big or small. And having attracted customers to our existing and new services I want to hold on to them. Only really satisfied customers will remain loyal, so customer satisfaction is at the heart of our strategy.

From a customer point of view the Halifax will not change on conversion. There is absolutely no reason why the Halifax should lose the customer friendliness which is part of the cultural bloodstream of the organisation. Nor does that simply apply in the branch network, the biggest of any building society. It equally applies in our newer distribution

channels, especially direct telephone-based services. We have just created one of the largest integrated computer telephony facilities in Europe so that we can meet our customers' needs without expecting them to attend our branches during opening hours. And we are pioneering new services through our estate agency chain, which has ridden out the worst housing recession of this century.

I think that most members would like to have seen a much faster conversion process. So would I. But the process of demutualising a building society is not one characterised by speed. And in our case it is worth remembering that the Halifax and the Leeds have just undertaken the biggest ever building society merger. Having the two businesses properly integrated is an essential prerequisite to seeking members' approval for the next stage.

We have more than 1,000 people working on bringing the

two member registers together. And the regulatory processes themselves, involving both the Building Societies Commission and the Bank of England, are massively time-consuming. But the delay could well mean that with the merger and subsequent acquisitions, more value will be handed over to members. Importantly, all investing members will fall within the "two-year rule". This means that no qualifying investing member will be artificially "timed out" of the distribution of extra free shares provided they meet the other criteria. It will not be until the end of November this year that all members will have the two-year qualification.

Conversion is important, but it is not an end in itself. It is simply another milestone on the road to the Halifax achieving its mission of being the biggest and best personal finance business in the UK. **Mike Blackburn is the chief executive of the Halifax Building Society**

Peter Black to close shoe factory

Peter Black, the toiletries and footwear supplier to Marks & Spencer, is to close its last UK shoe factory with the loss of 440 jobs. Costs of the closure of the Newbold business near Loughborough, Leicestershire, which makes women's formal footwear, are put at less than £6 million. Shares in Peter Black dipped 3p to 258p.

P&S dips

A drop in income from contract printing and the cost of new presses hit profits last year at Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers. Pre-tax profits ahead of expectations slipped from £9.3 million to £9 million for the year to March. Total dividend for the year is £2.87p, up 10 per cent.

Sales expansion

Photobition, the graphics and display services group, is to buy Precision Image Europe, a digital equipment sales company based in Newbury, Berkshire, for £1.32 million. The shares added 1p to 382p.

Somerfield set for £500m flotation

BY SARAH BAGNALL

SOMERFIELD, Britain's fifth-largest supermarket chain, is to float on the stock market in a move that will end a turbulent financial past by raising about £500 million.

The chain, formerly known as Gateway, was close to financial collapse three years ago, but new management and financial restructuring have combined to restore its fortunes.

The flotation is expected to result in the payment of a bonus worth £5 million to David Simons, chief executive, and four other senior executives. The bonus payment reflects the turnaround in fortunes at the food retailer, but it is only a fraction of the £50 million that was on offer if certain targets had been met.

Mr Simons, who was formerly at Storehouse, will receive £2 million.

The flotation involves the

sale of all the company's equity, of which 80 per cent will be offered to institutions, with the 20 per cent balance going to the public. The money raised will be used to pay off debt.

Somerfield, which was formed in 1992, is owned by debt-laden Isosceles, which bought the former Gateway chain in a highly leveraged £1.2 billion deal but then nearly collapsed.

Radical restructuring resulted in Gateway supermarkets being ring-fenced from £744 million of debt, which was left with Isosceles, the parent. Gateway retained £400 million of debt, which will be paid off by the flotation. Some of the debts owed to Isosceles will also be repaid, severing its links with its parent company.

Mr Simons said: "Flotation is the logical step in the

development of the company and will provide management with the resources to take advantage of the significant opportunities for further progress within the business."

Somerfield comprises 336 Somerfield stores, 225 Gateway stores and 28 Food Giant discount stores. Last year it achieved sales of more than £3 billion. Analysts are forecasting that Somerfield will report an £85 million operating profit in the year to April 30.

The group, which is in the process of converting its Gateway stores into Somerfield stores, plans to open ten new outlets a year for at least three years from 1997. The expansion would create about 2,000 jobs each year and lift capital expenditure to up to £120 million from last year's level of about £80 million.

Tempus, page 32

Osborne & Little gives extra payout

Osborne & Little, the fabrics and wallpaper company, has declared a special dividend after lifting profits 18 per cent to £4.3 million in the year to March 31. The company is paying a special dividend of 12.5p (4p) a share. A final dividend of 7.5p (6p) for the year makes a total of 24.5p (13.5p), a rise of 81 per cent. Earnings per share were 42.7p (37p).

BPB expansion

BPB Industries, the UK plasterboard producer, is expanding into Latin America with a complex deal to establish joint ventures in Chile and Brazil. The company has signed agreements with the Matte Group of Chile to take part of that company's 53 per cent stake in the largest gypsum and plasterboard producer in South America, Industrial El Volcan, at a cost of £37 million. Tempus, page 32

Vardon acquires health club chain

BY CLARE STEWART

VARDON, the Sea Life centres to bingo group, is expanding its leisure interests with the £40.5 million acquisition of Archer, the health and fitness group.

It is Vardon's largest deal since its formation and flotation in 1992. "It will transform the prospects of Vardon in the future, and it completes our development strategy," David Hudd, chairman of Vardon, said.

Vardon is funding the acquisition with a placing and offer to raise £33.4 million. The offer terms are three shares for ten at 118p.

Archer was formed in 1980 by Harm Tegelaars, who will join the Vardon board to run the new division. Archer operates a chain of nine Metropolitan health and fitness clubs, three Centre Court Tennis centres and manages leisure facilities on behalf of eight local authorities.

"There are outstanding

growth forecasts for the health and fitness market, where spending in the UK is expected to grow 27 per cent by 2000," Mr Hudd said. "Archer is one of the leading companies in the sector, with a unique exposure to both the public and private sector."

Operating profits for 1995 at Archer are forecast to be not less than £4.5 million on turnover of £24.5 million.

On current trading, Vardon says its bookings are ahead in its holidays division, while the performance of its newer bingo clubs are helping to lift profits.

Sales in its attractions division, which includes the London Dungeon, are on a par with 1995, with the key summer season yet to come. Today Vardon opens a new Sea Life centre in Birmingham, the first to be located in a city centre.

Vardon shares were unchanged at 125p.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.05	1.89
Austria Sch	17.49	15.39
Belgium Fr	51.21	46.81
Canada \$	2.208	2.048
Cyprus Cyp	0.726	0.648
Denmark Kr	9.81	8.81
Finland Mk	7.76	7.11
France Fr	8.36	7.71
Germany Dm	2.50	2.29
Greece Dr	387.00	363.00
Hong Kong \$	12.54	11.54
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Italy Lira	5.39	4.74
Japan Yen	2482.00	2287.00
Malta	181.00	165.00
Netherlands Gld	0.595	0.540
New Zealand \$	2.43	2.21
Norway Kr	10.57	9.77
Portugal Esc	202.50	194.00
S. Africa Rd	166.64	153.64
Sweden Kr	10.81	10.11
Switzerland Fr	7.18	6.38
Turkey Lira	205.00	182.00
USA \$	1.5414	1.4114
	1.833	1.503

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, has lowered the drawbridge at fortress Heathrow in an attempt to win approval for a grand alliance with American

Business, The Sunday Times tomorrow

A N E X C L U S I V E T I M E S R E A D E R O F F E R

Swing with the legends of jazz

Starting today, *The Times*, in association with Classics Direct, is offering readers the first of three CDs of jazz played by some of the all-time greats for only £1.98 each.

With the exception of the legendary New Orleans cornet player Buddy Bolden, credited with stimulating the move from ragtime to a new music known as "jazz", but famously never preserved on record, all the significant names from the early days of the music are represented here to give a picture of how jazz developed in the years between the two world wars.

The word "jazz" possibly comes from the French verb *jaser* (to gossip). It certainly started in the southern states where French, particularly among the Creoles, was one of the languages used, and "gossip" neatly describes the improvised ensemble playing of jazz, with each instrumentalist sparking off the others. As far as co-opting the word in the name of their group, the Original Dixieland Jazz Band, formed in Chicago in 1914, has the strongest claim to be the first, and so kicks off this collection.

Jazz found its roots in the blues of the southern states, and the blues has always remained at the heart of the music. The word features in nearly half the titles here, and the collection demands the

Our first CD for only £1.98 features such swingers as:
Jelly Roll Morton
Fats Waller
Bessie Smith and Duke Ellington



Duke Ellington, one of America's greatest composers

inclusion of the Empress of the Blues, Bessie Smith, whose *Downhearted Blues* was her first hit in 1933. It is fitting that Louis Armstrong is the name to feature twice. This New Orleans-born cornet player was jazz music's

first and greatest soloist, and among the other legends here who worked with Satchmo are Kid Ory, Fletcher Henderson, Bessie Smith and Johnny Dodds. Such was his longevity that a similar list of collaborators could be drawn from the big names of post-war jazz. And since Armstrong also became world-famous as an all-round entertainer, in his later years this pioneering genius also did much to spread the popularity of jazz to a general audience.

The breadth of early jazz is indicated by the necessary inclusion of Duke Ellington. The origins of the music may have been in the brothels and bars of New Orleans, but it could also embrace, in Ellington, one of America's greatest composers, combining the earthiness of the blues with complex, sophisticated instrumental arrangements that took jazz towards symphonic stature. From the Original Dixieland Jazz Band to Ellington, the range of jazz is excitingly illustrated on our CD collection.

On Monday and Tuesday we will introduce equally exciting CDs, *Jazz for Moderns* and *The Swing Era* which also feature some of the serious swingers such as Ella Fitzgerald, John Coltrane, Lionel Hampton, Artie Shaw and Billie Holiday.

CLASSIC JAZZ MASTERS



THE TIMES

Classic Jazz Masters track listing

1. Original Dixieland Jazz Band, *Ostrich Walk*
2. Kid Ory's Creole Trombone, *Ory*
3. King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band, *Chimes Blues*
4. New Orleans Rhythm Kings, *Milenberg Joys*
5. Bessie Smith, *Downhearted Blues*
6. Fletcher Henderson & His Orchestra, *Copenhagen*
7. Original Tuxedo Jazz Orchestra, *Careless Love*
8. Freddie Keppard, *Stockyard Strutt*
9. Jelly Roll Morton, *The Pearls*
10. Rex Beiderbecke & His Gang, *Jazz Me Blues*
11. Fats Waller & His Buddies, *Bugle Call Rag*
12. Johnny Dodd's Black Bottom Stompers, *Wild Man Blues*
13. Louis Armstrong & His Hot Five, *West End Blues*
14. Jimmy Moore's Apex Club Orchestra, *I Know That You Know*
15. Louis Armstrong & Earl Hines, *Weather Bird*
16. The Chicago Rhythm Kings, *I've Found A New Baby*
17. Fats Waller & His Buddies, *The Minor Drag*
18. Duke Ellington & His Orchestra, *The Blues With A Feeling*
19. James P. Johnson, *You've Got To Be Modernistic*
20. Tommy Ladnier & His Orchestra, *Really The Blues*

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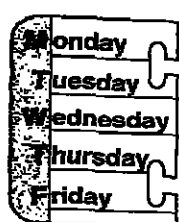
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A WORKING WEEK FOR: HARVEY GOLDSMITH

Accredited impresario thrives on the buzz

Jon Ashworth has an audience with the man behind some of Britain's biggest and most spectacular pop gigs and opera performances



Imagine the biggest pop concert in the world, the biggest names, impossible antics, dazzling special effects, and you have entered the realm of Harvey Goldsmith. Twenty years ago, he was being hailed as Britain's most powerful impresario. Today, at 50, he still is — and the acts just keep getting bigger.

Goldsmith, appointed CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, is behind some of the summer's headline shows: the Three Tenors at Wembley on July 6; the Eagles a week later. He brought Pink Floyd to Earls Court, and transformed opera with *Aida*, *Carmen* and *Tosca*. With Bob Geldof, he put Live Aid together in just ten weeks, raising £140 million. Hand him the most challenging project you can think of, and he couldn't be happier. "There is no word 'no' in our organisation," he growls. "We have 'difficult', and we have 'impossible', but we never have 'no'."

Pop and theatre promoters are not employed for their charms, and Goldsmith is no exception. "I've just been known to get a bit excitable sometimes. There are some infamous deal-meetings with the Earls Court management where we've gone out for lunch, and I've tipped the table up when the main course was served because of the difficulty of trying to sort a contract out. Made the point. We've continued to do business with them, and we like doing business with them, but sometimes people get very difficult."

London is about to rock to the latest Goldsmith extravaganza: Masters of Music, featuring Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton and other veterans. About 150,000 fans are expected to attend the concert in Hyde Park in two weeks' time. Only earthquake or flood can stop it happening. Workers will spend the next two weeks constructing what amounts to a small metropolis. "We're building a kind of town for the day, if you like, which involves a lot of infrastructure, of toilets, and sewerage, and electricity points, and signage, and shops, and concessions, and merchandising, and God knows what else. It all needs to go in to putting a show on to allow people just to get the maximum benefit for their day out."

Fans should look out for a chubby, bearded figure, dashing about with a clipboard and stopwatch. "That's my job: to keep an overview of everything that's going on, and to drive people mad when it's not right. The sound, the vision, the making sure people get in, that the concessions are charging the price that they said they're going to charge, that the toilets are working, the acts are on stage. Just keep roaming around, just keep going."

Goldsmith will not relax until it's over. "You spend months coming up with the ideas, and working on a show. You finally

get the show together, you put it on sale, hopefully you sell it out, and when it comes to the day, all you want to do is get it off. Because you're under curfew, time constraints, and whatever. You do what I did during Live Aid, which is to have stop-clocks everywhere telling people what time they're going to get off, and not what time they're going to get on."

"We're gamblers, really. My business is to punt on the 3.30 every day, and hopefully you're right. You can look at all the form you possible can, and you can test the going on the day, but until the race takes place, you've got no idea. The race, to us, is when the tickets go on sale. That's when it all happens."

Goldsmith says the days of drug-crazed guitarists crawling from their dressing rooms are long gone. "We haven't had that for years. Artists are more likely to have been in training with their physical trainer or whatever, and gearing up for tours. There's always an element of some of the newer acts who are apt to think they can reinvent the wheel, and the drug culture, and all the rest of it."

Artists are treating shows like business propositions. "It's an important part of their life. They get one shot, and if an artist screws up on the road more than once, the public won't swallow it. And that's the end of them."

Goldsmith has had his share of madness. In one legendary incident, The Who hand-cuffed him to an amplifier, and hoisted him into the air in full view of the audience. He was on tour with Eric Clapton, when the band took a dislike to a Danish promoter, shaved his head and threw him off a train. "Part of all the mystique and the magic, the hysteria, of what goes on, is partly just a wind-down after the high of coming off a stage of a great show. You're just so high you don't really know what to do, you just let fly."

Goldsmith worked on the Hyde Park concert of the Sixties, but did not present them. Ageing rockers will remember him for staging a midnight show at Parliament Hill Fields, headlined by Fleetwood Mac. "That had a crowd of about 75,000 people. It was just a great event, and great fun, and no problems at all." He went on to stage events like the Concerts for Kampuchea in 1978, featuring George Harrison, Queen and others. He hosted The Wall concert in Berlin, and brought Pavarotti to Hyde Park.

Hundreds, possibly thousands, of screaming girls have tried to charm their way backstage at one time or another. Goldsmith will not be moved. "I'm very strict about it. Backstage is a working area, and people have jobs to do. We have hospitality areas which are away from the backstage area, and artists' dressing rooms. We try and create areas where they can hang around. Controlled madness, I suppose."

"There's a pass for everything these days. A pass to get in. A pass to get out. An artist's pass, a media pass. You just have



Harvey Goldsmith has few good things to say about the stock market after his parent company spent a short and unhappy stint as a listed business

to accredit everybody. You need to know who people are." He was once barred from one of his own Wembley shows. He had misplaced his pass. "Sometimes I'm walking around with a dozen passes in my pocket, for different shows, and I have to remember where I am."

One wonders why Goldsmith is willing to put up with this after all these years. "It's the buzz of it. It's the buzz of putting something new on, or finding a new show, or a new artist, and presenting it to the public because you know it's going to be fantastic. For me, the excitement is the challenge in always trying to come up with something new, and to push the boat out as far as we possibly can, and push people into trying new ideas."

Goldsmith's new project is *Lord of the Dance*, which features Michael Flatley, the original Riverdance lead. Fans can enjoy a preview on National Lottery Live tonight. Goldsmith talks excitedly about combining big names in theatre with the stage and lighting designers who create sets for Pink Floyd and the Rolling Stones. The pace has eased a little from the days when Goldsmith spent half the year touring overseas. He has spent more time in the UK recently than he can remember, living near Lord's with Diana, his wife,

and playing golf on Sunday mornings. He is closely involved with The Prince's Trust. "My body can go four or five days with a couple of hours' sleep, and then I stop, recharge for 24 hours. My relaxation, lately, has gone into golf, which is what most rock'n'rollers do today, I suppose."

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

starting with Japan and Australia, and heading west, as America wakes up. Goldsmith is happy to field calls from his office in Marylebone, rather than dashing

to the airport every other day. "I drove myself nuts trying to follow loyalty programmes and stick to one airline. I think I ended up with somewhere in the region of 360,000 unused miles on Pan Am before they imploded."

Goldsmith has few good things to say about the stock market, where Allied Entertainment, his parent company, enjoyed a short and unhappy stint in the 1980s. "The City is based on analysts, and robots, and computers, who are there to give out numbers and figures to people, but are not necessarily reflective of what the business is."

Harvey Goldsmith Enterprises today has a turnover of about £35 million. Goldsmith hopes *Lord of the Dance* will pave the way for even greater things. "Rock'n'roll touring business is a very

mature business, and it's that much harder to make a profit. So when you create something, like *Lord of the Dance*, you've got the opportunity of really making a lot of money. On a regular touring type show, when you're just a participant among many, around the world, there's very little chance of making money, and it's just volume."

"I'm fascinated by this whole idea of shows, such as *Lord of the Dance*, and our opera productions, and getting into shows that we can create and own. I want to concentrate my efforts where I can reward an audience with something spectacular and at the same time earn something out of it. I'm not starving, by any shape or form, but I want to earn some real money."

HIDDEN ASSETS

US meets oriental over the counter at Barclays Bank

Joanna Pitman discovers palatial splendour in a former car showroom

It would be difficult to imagine a more exotic place in which to cash a cheque than the Barclays Bank branch at 160 Piccadilly, just over the road from the Ritz Hotel. When you enter the spectacular oriental-style banking hall, it takes a little while for the eyes to adjust to the unexpected palatial splendour. A soft light glows from four Venetian red lacquered pillars that rise to support a vaulted ceiling. Underfoot, the floor is inlaid geometrically with jagged concentric black and white stars in marble.

Around the walls are black lacquered counters with multifarious oriental details picked out in gold, and cane-backed chairs covered with plush velvet cushions.

A red lacquered desk stands in the middle of the room emblazoned in oriental designs and on one wall hangs a dramatic red and

gold chinoiserie panel. Few would ever guess that this interior was originally designed as a car showroom. The architect was William Curtis Green (1875-1960) who completed 160 Piccadilly in 1922 as the showroom for Wolseley Motors. In 1926 it was sold to Barclays who called back Curtis Green to convert it.

Along with the Dorchester, 160 Piccadilly is perhaps his best-known building. For the exterior, Green chose "the Big Bow-Wow style of Corinth USA", a British version of the contemporary American East Coast style.

Internally, the hall is a triumph of detail, believed to be derived in part from Florentine churches. But it also retains a number of

thoroughly classical characteristics. Green's fastidious concern for colour and finish attracted the attention of the Royal Institute of British Architecture (RIBA) and the building was awarded the institute's first bronze medal in 1922 for excellence of design in London street architecture.

The craftsmanship is remarkable. The four red columns are believed to be covered with 26 coats of lacquer. The cane chairs in the manager's office are picked out in exquisite gold designs and delicate oriental scenes cover numerous other items of furniture, including the sumptuous postbox which was decorated in the Japanese style.

Unfortunately the interior

was not enough to turn mere viewers into buyers and Wolseley Motors went bankrupt in 1926.

Barclays Bank perhaps already had its eye on another bank branch in Piccadilly designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, originally for Midland Bank, but the acquisition of an award-winning building was too good an opportunity to miss and soon Green was back at work.

The building was changed very little on the outside but internally it was entirely converted. Green installed the lacquered counters fitted out with hundreds of little drawers on the tellers' side. He added a pair of bronze front doors complete with magnificent bronze door knockers bearing the Barclays monogram.

He completely disregarded the norm in banking design and furnishing — a heavy and sombre combination of Georgian panelling in mahogany or oak with green or brown colouring — and went to town with his rich red, black and gold theme, adding new pieces of furniture throughout, all decorated in the oriental fashion.

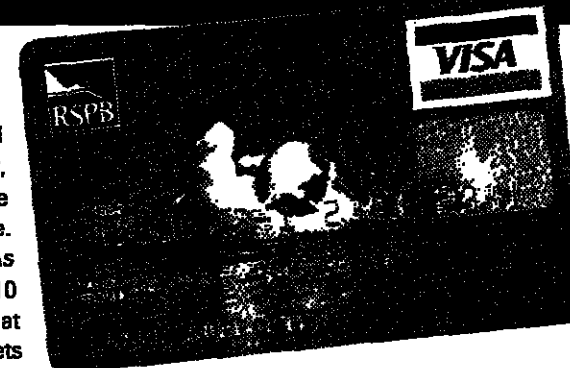
When Barclays opened its doors at 160 Piccadilly in 1927, the manager, Colonel C.W. Courlay, started off with only six staff. Today more than 70 people work at the branch which has become one of Barclays Bank's principal London offices. Apart from the glazed security screens above the tellers' counters and the addition of lifts, the building remains virtually unchanged from its original rich 1920s design.



A highly decorative Chinese screen is just one of the many features at 160 Piccadilly

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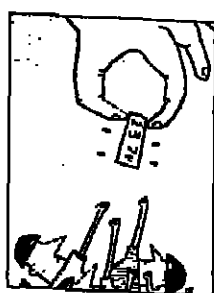
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WEEKEND MONEY

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Protection needed for long-term care policies



Shop around for better money rates

Household names are offering cheaper deals in currency exchange, says **Caroline Merrell**

American Express continues to offer the best foreign exchange deal in the high street — travellers can save about £10 by exchanging £500 through Amex rather than through a high street bank.

The company offers better-than-average value because it charges a flat rate of £2 on each currency. It also offers among the best rates of exchange.

Another winner, in central London at least, is Marks & Spencer, better known for its sandwiches and lingerie. It has recently enhanced its foreign exchange service by offering a special no-commission deal in two of its branches in central London — which means those lucky enough to have access to these stores would save about £20 compared with a high street bureau de change.

The deal is offered through International Currency Exchange and will be available for three months at the Oxford Street (Pantheon) branch of M&S. The retailer is also trialling a no-commission deal at its Bath store, which if successful will be offered in all of its nine foreign exchange bureaux. Its bureaux tend to be at stores in central tourist areas, including Edinburgh and York.

Another good deal is available from the Post Office, which has the lowest percentage commission. Although the rates of exchange offered are

about average, for those with only small amounts of money to exchange, it could be the best option.

Those who leave getting their currency until they reach the airport will have to pay a rate and a commission which is set by the BAA (formerly the British Airports Authority), the ultimate owner of Gatwick and Heathrow.

The exchange rate at all bureaux at the airports is linked to the exchange rate of one of the clearing banks. The

Cut-price lessons and best summer holiday deals — see page 1 of Weekend section

commission is set at 1.5 per cent, which is lower than the commission at Thomas Cook, which tends to be about 2 per cent.

Holidaymakers who shop for their currency at Thomas Cook will be offered different rates depending on the location of the bureau. The central office for Thomas Cook offers each bureau one of four different rates on its currencies. The bureau can choose which rate it wants to offer, taking local competition into account. Bureaux in big cities may

offer their customers a better rate because there is more competition, or a particular bureau may choose to offer a low rate on one currency because it sees a commercial advantage in doing so.

Thomas Cook in the Midland Bank on Haymarket, central London, was exchanging pounds for francs at a rate of 7.77 this week. The rate at Thomas Cook on Piccadilly Circus, only a hundred yards away, was 7.805.

Those travelling by Eurostar to Brussels or Paris can benefit from the reasonable rate offered by the International Currency Exchange — the same company which offers the no-commission deal with Marks & Spencer.

Other pointers for holidaymakers is whether a bureau will exchange unused currency free of commission. The banks tend to charge their normal commission rate, which will be about 1.5 to 2 per cent mark. Thomas Cook and other bureaux de change, such as the International Currency Exchange, will not charge customers commission for re-exchanging unused currency, provided they have the receipt.

Below we give the rates available this week for changing £500 into five currencies, the commission payable and the amount received.

Additional research by Lizanne Rose



Change of heart at Northern

Northern Rock Building Society has responded to criticism from its members over its attitude towards transferring between accounts.

The society, which is in the process of becoming a bank, had originally made it difficult for those who were eligible for shares on conversion to switch between accounts. It said moving money around in that manner could jeopardise any membership rights. This effectively meant people were locked in to their accounts until after the completion of the conversion, which is likely to happen next year.

This was particularly onerous for those with an instant access account with the society, as the interest paid is between 0.5 and 2.15 per cent. Northern Rock's policy was in contrast to the other societies in the process of converting. The Bristol & West, Alliance & Leicester, Halifax and Woolwich allow members to switch between accounts and not endanger their share or cash payout.

The Northern Rock's attitude, which was highlighted in *The Times*, produced a storm of criticism from members. However, the society has now decided to relax its attitude. In a letter to *The Times*, Adam Applegarth, executive director, said: "We have had a number of our existing share account savers say they are disappointed that the Great North Account is a deposit account. In the light of this, from the end of the month we propose to open a version of the Great North Postal account available for transfers from existing share accounts. This transfer version of the Great North will be a share account and will obviously protect any potential conversion benefits."

The Great North Account, which has a minimum investment of £5,000, carries an interest rate of between 6.5 and 7 per cent according to the amount invested. More information on 0500 50 5000.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

WHERE TO SHOP FOR YOUR HOLIDAY CASH

	SELLING RATE	£500	FEE		SELLING RATE	£500	FEE
Royal Bank of Scotland	France 7.8425	3,983	1.5%	Post Office	France 7.7253	3,883	1%
	Pesetas 185.50	96,305			Pesetas 182.45	95,200	
	DM 2.31	1,127			DM 2.2985	1,135	
	Lira 2335.0	1,149,972			Lira 2314.4	1,146,020	
	US Dollars 1.5050	737			US Dollars 1.4970	741	
Barclays Bank	France 7.75	3,880	2%	Halifax	France 7.722	3,840	1%
	Pesetas 185	94,000			Pesetas 182.425	95,000	min
	DM 2.308	1,120			DM 2.279	1,130	£1.25
	Lira 2337	1,145,000			Lira 2307.45	1,141,000	
	US Dollars 1.506	737			US Dollars 1.487	737	
NatWest Bank	France 7.735	3,889.48	1.5%	Going Places	France 7.780	3,883	£2
	Pesetas 180	96,052.50			Pesetas 183	96,000	flat
	DM 2.29	1,127.83			DM 2.3	1,140	fee
	Lira 2336	1,149,972			Lira 2320	1,150,000	
	US Dollars 1.5025	736.38			US Dollars 1.5	746	
Lloyds Bank	France 7.766	3,880	2%	Thomas Cook	France 7.77	3,880	min £3
	Pesetas 182.75	94,000		Heymarket	Pesetas 182.35	95,000	
	DM 2.307	1,130			DM 2.303	1,130	
	Lira 2328	1,140,000			Lira 2325	1,140,000	
	US Dollars 1.5025	736			US Dollars 1.503	736	
Abbey National	France 7.73	3,810	1.5%	International	France 7.76	3,823	1.5%
Oxford Street	Pesetas 182.819	94,900		Currency Exchange	Pesetas 180	95,075	min
Travelers Service	DM 2.282	1,130		Eurostar	DM 2.287	1,150	£2.50
	Lira 2303.78	1,135,000			Lira 2307	1,150,500	
	US Dollars 1.499	734			US Dollars 1.506	742	
M&S	France 7.81	3,855		Exchange International	France 7.82	3,834	
	Pesetas 192.3	96,150		Gatwick	Pesetas 186	95,800	1.5%
	DM 2.301	1,150		(not on premises)	DM 2.308	1,128	
	Lira 2321	1,150,500			Lira 2342	1,148,000	
	US Dollars 1.497	745			US Dollars 1.5126	742	
Amex	France 7.81	3,889	£2		France 7.77	3,850	1.5%
	Pesetas 194.3	96,781	per		Pesetas 182.85	96,000	
	DM 2.299	1,150	curr.		DM 2.303	1,140	£2.50
	Lira 2326	1,150,348			Lira 2325	1,150,000	
	US Dollars 1.503	748			US Dollars 1.503	740	

Look back in humility

If you have tried ringing your broker during our sudden summer, you may well have found that he was taking the sun somewhere. Torpor has descended on the markets not only in London, but in New York, Tokyo and most of the less important centres. A good time, you may think, for letting well alone; but think again. Unlike Sumitomo's rogue trader, who appears to have been a mad bull, Nick Leeson's last fatal gamble on behalf of Barings was simply that the then torpid Tokyo market would stay that way. Wrong again.

Torpid markets are, in fact, more easily disturbed than active ones, because a move by perhaps only one big investor has much more impact when turnover is low. Summer brings summer storms.

You can't, of course, forecast them, as the Met Office learnt some years ago: just be aware that they can happen. And once you are aware of it, you can think constructively. This means using hindsight, for there is no other guide.

It is easy to scoff. A Hindsight Trust as the fairy-tale fund? Ha ha. And in real time the exercise seems futile and uncomfortable, too: a catalogue of missed chances. But it is also a reminder of the cost of lazy thinking.

A calculation in the new PDM pension fund review shows that a fund manager who had done no more than pick, each year, the best sector out of pick — home or overseas equities, gilts or four — home or overseas equities, gilts and cash — would have enjoyed returns two-and-a-half times as great as the second best choice, sticking to

PERSONAL INVESTOR

British equities. And hindsight is the only training school for strategy. So let's try looking back: in this column, just at the advice I can remember giving. Worst advice: to follow the emerging markets. This was the wrong kind of hindsight: they had done spectacularly up to 1993, which I should have read as a warning, not a promise.

The price was looking for miracles: strategy means looking not only at the fundamentals, but at what the market is already discounting. But the fundamentals are still there, for these are still the fast-growing economies: and after three years in the doldrums, the shares look promising again. I will certainly retain my own gambling stake.

Best advice: buy unfashionable bonds. The returns enjoyed by those ready to back the Italians, the Argentinians and other traditional inflation victims to get their acts together made even Wall Street equities look tame. Autolycus, the snapper-up of unconsidered trifles, often does enjoy the best rewards.

But this is a game only for the wide-awake. The Latin American recovery, and the great post-Maastricht European bond market convergence are now largely over (though Spain still looks quite attractive). Lesson: while running your gains and cutting your

losses remains a sound equity strategy, gains from good market timing should be cashed.

But you are probably not a gambler in bonds: that market, as a leading gilts broker once said, is too speculative for the small investor. You are in equities and smug about it, too. This column can be only half smug: some well-timed buy calls, but some much too nervous suggestions that the fun might be over. Hindsight would again have been a better guide: it shows that major market trends, be they in securities, property, or even exchange rates, always go much farther than reason suggests.

As a Swiss banker remarked of the dollar in 1983: "My reasons tell me it is much too high; my book tells me it is going up."

Not for ever, though. Time, then, to confront the great investment question of 1996 (and of 1995 and 1994, as you may remember). When is the big market correction actually going to happen? And where? The second question is easy: nobody will be immune, any more than in 1987. But post-break, some markets, including ours, will be cheap.

Not Tokyo, though, and not Wall Street, where the trouble will surely start. Danger signs so far: insiders selling, and fund managers switching overseas. But as in 1987, Wall Street could still rise quite sharply before it breaks. Give it your anxious attention.

ANTHONY HARRIS

One new issue nobody should miss



If you are thinking about investing, you'd be wise to invest some of your time reading *The Mercury Investor's Guide*. This free, full-colour, 50-page publication includes several thought-provoking articles by leading independent financial journalists.

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Jody Brett Kelly finds off-the-peg cover may be more expensive

Insurance made to measure

Standard issue home and contents cover suits most households. But anyone with fine art on their walls or expensive potted plants in their gardens may need more sophisticated cover.

Increasing numbers of wealthy homeowners are looking carefully at their insurance, in the light of incidents such as the £55,000 raid on the Oxfordshire home of the Duke and Duchess of Kent.

A study by RK Harrison, a London insurance broker, says that 800,000 British homes are worth more than £200,000 with contents valued at about £50,000. The survey claims that if you are one of this number you probably have off-the-peg insurance instead of a bespoke plan and are likely to be paying up to twice as much as you should be. Bespoke schemes recognise valuable items such as antiques, art and jewellery, whereas conventional policies often exclude items above a certain cash value, say £2,000.

Quotations from RK Harrison show you will pay a premium of £1,057 for a bespoke insurance policy, covering a £400,000 home, its general contents and fine art and jewellery amounting to £150,000. This compares with a premium of more than £1,700 from a non-specialist general insurer. About 750,000 people are spending more than £1,000 on household and building contents insurance and most of those are standard policies.

A number of brokers are now targeting what they call "high net worth" homeowners. Premiums start at about £800 and cover a wide range of occurrences, including personal and public liability, fire, flood and theft. Most policies will allow you to pay monthly at no extra charge.

Adam Golder, head of private client services at RK Harrison, says they can provide cheaper insurance because "higher value means better risk, but companies who provide standard policies don't appreciate that".

He says people with precious objects often have alarms and safes and look after their possessions better.

Also, under a standard policy some insurers will penalise

you if you are underinsured. For example, if the insurer finds you are underinsured by 50 per cent they may cut your payout by half. Many standard policies will not allow your policy to be comprised of more than 25 per cent of antiques. Also, if you have unique jewellery stolen, standard policies may force you to buy a replacement rather than allowing you to keep the insurance money.

If you have an expensive garden you can also insure your trees, shrubs and hedges, which are now being targeted by thieves. Doug Harman, head of Premier Care, the NatWest bespoke service, says: "We have also noticed people are becoming more concerned about their garden furniture and statues which can be quite costly."

He says if you are insuring a second home in the country you may come across differing attitudes by insurers, but generally you can leave a second property unoccupied for about 30 days without being penalised.

If you are insured for two homes, make sure you are covered for all-risks, which means items are insured outside the home.

Towry Law's Premier Service will arrange tailor-made insurance contracts to anyone who needs home contents cover of at least £50,000. Any client who undertakes a valuation on their home will earn a 10 per cent discount on their premiums. For example, a homeowner with a detached £275,000 house in Berkshire with £80,500 contents insurance and a £50 excess would pay an annual premium of £508.

Premier Care caters for those needing cover of at least £250,000 for a house and £75,000 for its contents. If you use one of its recommended valuers you earn a 20 per cent reduction on the premium. Premiums start at about £800.

Cox Underwriting, which provides insurance to homeowners needing cover of at least £250,000, is offering clients free annual travel insurance for a family, including up to three children.

Cox Underwriting 0800 378877; NatWest Insurance Services 0645 100239; RK Harrison 0500 101015; Towry Law 01753 554400.

Bespoke schemes can recognise antiques, art and jewellery



Robin Lowe had held a policy with Cox insurance for only three days before he was forced to make a claim



Mark Agnew's premiums fell from £1,200 to £910 a year

New policy pays up without fuss

Robin Lowe, a theatrical agent, had his home and contents insurance for only three days before his home was burgled.

After ringing around, Cox Underwriting, which is based in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, gave him a quote to insure his house and contents for £250,000 at a premium of £800 a year, about half the cost of his previous policy with Eagle Star.

Three days after he took out the Cox policy, robbers ransacked his Hampshire home and took paintings, furniture and silver picture frames. Cox Underwriting is paying out nearly £15,000 without a question. This is in spite of a

subsequent valuation finding he is underinsured.

The policy is comprehensive and includes extras such as £1,000 to post a reward for information about the burglary. It also includes £10 million employer's cover if any harm comes to, say, a gardener or cook. And if the burglary had involved violence, his insurance company would have paid out £15,000 to enable him to move home if necessary.

Mr Lowe, 70, agent for the late Daphne du Maurier, the author, and now involved in the filming of *Rebecca*, says: "I was really embarrassed that only three days elapsed before I claimed, but they are paying up like lambs."

Valued at more but costing less

When Mark Agnew retired as principal of the National Nautical School he had more time to look at his insurance policies.

Mr Agnew and his wife, Elspeth, both 66, who live in a 17th-century former curate's house near Dorchester, suspected that their contents were worth more than the £105,000 they were insured for. "We have a lot of very lovely pictures and a certain amount of antiques," he says.

They were concerned that upping their

policy would cost them more than the £1,200 a year they were paying Sun Alliance in premiums. A valuation revealed their home contents were worth twice as much and a quote from RK Harrison, the bespoke broker, showed they could be insured for £225,000 and actually pay less in premiums — £910 a year.

The policy is with the Hiscox Group and protects the Agnews against incidences, including theft, fire, flood and storm damage, subsidence and accidental dam-

age. It also covers jewellery and personal possessions when they go on holiday. Mr Agnew has no excess, but if he took on £250 he would get a 12.5 per cent reduction on his premiums. If he makes a claim it will be paid within ten working days or Hiscox, based in London, pays interest, which it has never had to do.

"We are very happy with the service from our brokers RK Harrison; they do all the hunting around and find you the best deal," Mr Agnew says.

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance
Editor

Life insurers put on a caring mask

Self-knowledge is rare among insurance companies. Even when the evidence points to the contrary, the industry will see itself as honest and upstanding.

However, the universal call for the regulation of long-term care policies indicates that some companies are aware of their weaknesses. They suspect that, without tight controls, they would be sorely tempted to behave badly, selling unsuitable policies, with exorbitant premiums to an unsuspecting public. The result would be a scandal rivaling the personal pensions affair, an episode that revealed the sins of which life companies are capable, even when selling regulated investments.

Picture the headlines. 20 years hence, if thousands of pensioners needing to go into homes found that the payouts from their policies were insufficient. Or if claims were being refused because the qualifying criteria were impossibly high, requiring every sort of incapacity, rather than two or three. As we report on page 38, charities, life companies and the watchdogs themselves have joined the campaign to bring long-term care policies within the Financial Services Act. To date, ministers have been curiously reluctant to extend legislation to these policies. But one supposes that the Government's wish to shift the £22 billion-a-year bill for care for the elderly from the State on to the population will now make regulation more attractive.

Providing protection will not be enough to increase the popularity of this cover, however. For example, under its partnership plan, the Government proposes to reward those who take out insurance, safeguarding a portion of their capital. However, since some policies pay out for a limited period, what happens when the cover runs out? Will your local authority step in to pay the fees at your existing home? Or will you be forced to move to another cheaper place within the authority's budget? What price then the Government's partnership pledge?

A little less

PAYING into an additional voluntary contribution (AVC) scheme, so making use of every penny of tax relief, is a sure way to feel virtuous and assured of a splendid pension. But, amid this warm glow of approbation, few pause to ask about the performance of the fund manager, employed by their company pension scheme to invest this extra saving.

This week's AVC survey from Watson Wyatt, the actuarial firm, suggests that you should be pleased if Clerical Medical is doing the job, but dismayed if Britannia Life is in charge. If you had paid in £100 a month over five years to a Clerical Medical with-profit scheme, you would be looking at a 12.4 per cent return from Clerical Medical. The return from a Britannia Life plan would be 3.3 per cent. Over three years, Britannia Life's lack of flair is also evident. Here the return was 2 per cent, against 12.7 per cent for Clerical Medical. It seems that, as a pension scheme member, you can never relax your vigilance.

Change of heart

A BUILDING society that is becoming a bank holds its savers captive. However, most will allow customers to switch to other accounts paying better rates. Northern Rock Building Society chose to be the exception to this rule, for reasons that are unclear. It also decided to pay some of its best rates on a postal deposit account, without membership rights. A strange move for a society which, in spite of its ambitions to be a bank, prides itself on its commitment to its customers. However, it has now relented (see page 33) turning its Great North Postal into a share account and allowing savers to transfer without penalty. More the way to win friends, I think.

Some friends

WEEKEND Money receives frequent complaints about the charges and disappointing performance of friendly society plans. In the light of this, the idea that friendly societies should take over the functions of the welfare state, paying out benefits, seems a shade surprising.

In a report this week, the Association of Friendly Societies envisages its members taking a leading role in a new social contract. Under this arrangement, the State would provide "a certain level of social protection", if individuals made some contribution towards their own future needs. Since some friendly societies seem to have difficulty investing £200 a year (the current maximum) with any success, making them responsible for pensions is somewhat overambitious.

H&R MISS

Schroders is mailing investors glossy pictures of leopards. The reason, they say, is that leopards are camouflaged and difficult to spot. Similarly, if you know where to look, you can find hidden opportunities in the fast-growing emerging countries.

"Now the brightest of these

Schroders prepares to pounce

opportunities are available to you through a brand new investment trust, the Schroder Emerging Countries Fund," says the brochure.

Schroders is already fully committed to the emerging markets, with a team of 50 analysts and ten offices in these rapidly growing but highly volatile economies.

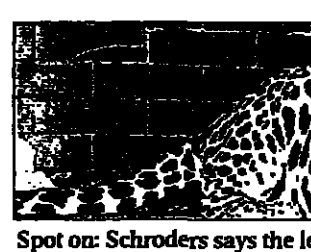
The investment trust, complementing the £277 million Global Emerging Markets unit trust, will invest in companies in the likes of Argentina, the

Czech Republic, Morocco and China.

The fund launches on July 2, but Schroders suggests you send for an application form now. As an incentive, those who apply within the launch period will be issued one warrant at no extra cost with every five ordinary shares. Warrants allow you to buy shares at some point in the future at a pre-set — and hopefully lower — price.

John Szymanski, investment trust analyst at SBC Warburg, says: "Schroders' in-

vestment trusts have a feel of quality about them, and I would back Schroders' ability to be in the right place at the right time. However you have



Spot on: Schroders says the leopard symbolises its new fund

to compare the new trust with existing products, which may be trading at a discount.

"When you buy a brand new fund, you will be paying a small

premium for new launch expenses. Whereas several existing global funds, including Fleming, Genesis and Templeton, are offering a discount. You have to pay stamp duty and brokers' commission, but they will still work out cheaper."

Advisers, too, say they would avoid the new trust. "It's hard to justify a new trust to clients because the launch price includes launch costs. We would tend to go for the discounted Templeton Emerging Markets instead," says James Higgins at Chamberlain de Broe, the independent financial advisers.

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3 M Surname
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All forenames
Address in full
Postcode Date of Birth DAY MONTH YEAR

4 I accept the purchase will be subject to the terms of the current Prospectus.
Signature Date

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(Mr Mrs Miss Ms)
All forenames
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Caroline Merrell looks at the prospects for British Energy investors

Power play could earn a fast buck

British Energy, the latest state sale, took a step closer to the stock market this week with the publication of its draft prospectus. This coincided with the growing view among stockbrokers that the nuclear company represents a good short-term bet for the private investor, but the long-term prospects are less certain.

Financial advisers claim that the most attractive aspect for investors is likely to be the yield, which they predict could be about 7 per cent. The company is spending about £100 million on paying out a dividend of 13.7p in the first year. The dividend is to be paid in two instalments — 4.6p in January, with the remainder paid in July.

Management claims to want to continue this "progressive" dividend policy in the medium to long term, even though the profits may not be enough to cover it. However, the prospectus reveals that for an increasing dividend to be paid, certain criteria must be met.

The pool price of electricity cannot fall more than 5 per cent, and British Energy's output cannot fall because of some unforeseen circumstance. Increased dividends are also dependent on British Energy being able to extend the life of four of the eight power stations being sold, and there being no increased regulation. Analysts feel that the latter two conditions may not be met.

British Energy is offering 700 million shares, all of the Government's holding in the company. The first instalment of the shares will cost 100p and the minimum investment will be £300. Payment will be made in two instalments over the next 14 months.

Analysts think the long-term outlook is far from certain. The company's performance is dependent on the price of pool electricity — BZW's prediction of a £200 million profit by the end of the century relies on the pool price staying at about 2.39p per kilowatt hour. It also predicts a cost-cutting programme.

However, the other generating companies, National Power

and PowerGen, which have a more direct impact on the pool price, feel that prices could fall, perhaps even below 2p per kilowatt hour.

Other uncertainties surround the cost of decommissioning the power stations when they reach the end of their life. A segregated fund has been set up to provide for this cost. The first decommissioning will start in ten years' time. The segregated fund will start with £228 million from the Government, with British Energy contributing a further £16 million a year to the fund from profits.

Greenpeace, the environmental group, believes that the decommissioning costs will soar far above the amount put aside by the group. Decommissioning of nuclear power stations is a relatively young science and costs could rise sharply.

One final shadow clouding the company's future is the Labour Party. It has always been opposed to the nuclear sell-off. Its manifesto includes a commitment not to invest in new nuclear power stations, or to extend the lives of the power stations.

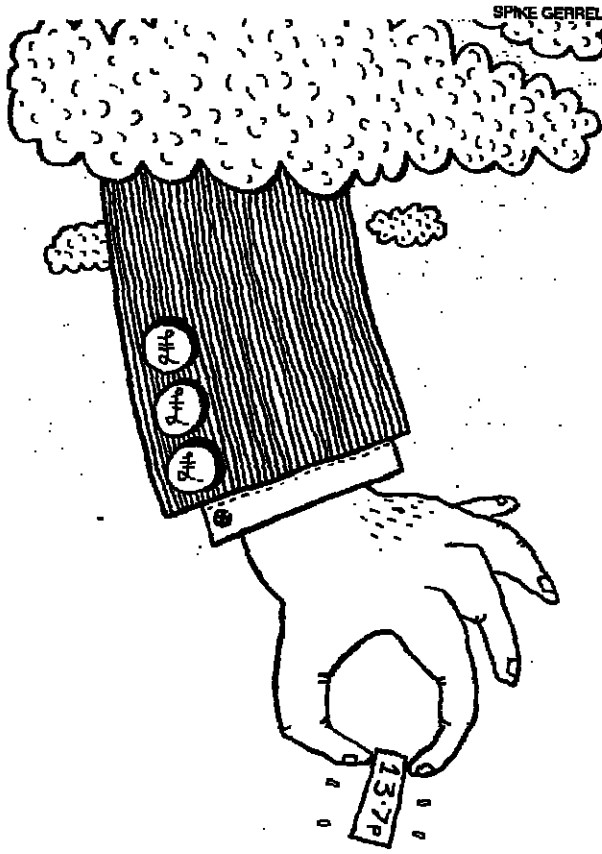
Labour is also likely to increase the regulation of the electricity industry — bringing cost savings for the consumer, but hitting profitability.

The publication of the prospectus drew a storm of protest from Labour. It pointed out that the sale was likely to reap the Government only £1.7 billion, in spite of the industry being valued at £5 billion.

John Battle, Shadow Energy Minister, said: "Taxpayers are losing massively in this desperate dash for cash orchestrated by the Conservatives."

Despite the obvious drawbacks to the company, stockbrokers think that its price makes it attractive. Jeremy Batstone, head of research at Natwest Stockbrokers, said: "It is a good investment for the short term. Its cash-generative aspects make it attractive."

By 12 June, 1.1 million people had registered. The closing date is 24 June.



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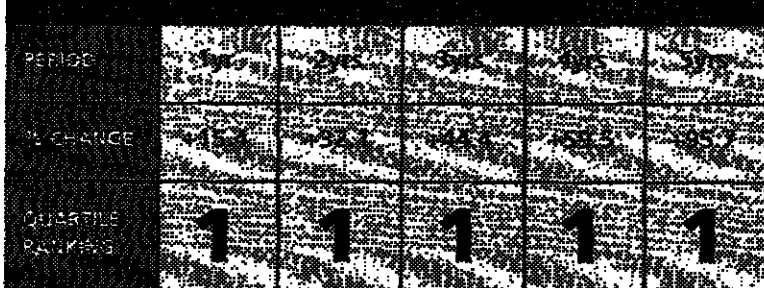
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*SOURCE: M&G PEP OFFER TO BID WITH NET INCOME REINVESTED TO 10TH JUNE 1996. ALL FIGURES ARE TAKEN FROM 1ST JUNE EACH YEAR EXCEPT FOR THE 5 YEAR PERIOD WHICH IS TAKEN FROM 7 & 8 JUNE. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE. THE VALUE OF UNITS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM MAY GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP AND YOU MAY NOT GET BACK THE FULL AMOUNT ORIGINALLY INVESTED. EXCHANGE RATES MAY CAUSE THE VALUE OF UNDERLYING OVERSEAS INVESTMENTS TO GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP. THE TAX TREATMENT OF PEPs MAY BE ALTERED BY FUTURE LEGISLATION. ISSUED BY PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LIMITED. REGULATED BY NPS AND THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY. A MEMBER OF M&G

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Source: Union Bank of Switzerland.

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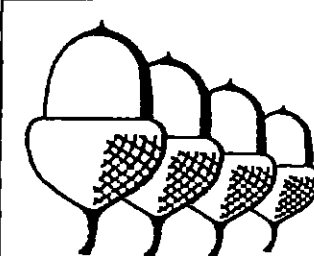
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investment, **Helen Pridham** takes
a look at the advantages and
disadvantages of investing in
investment and unit trust Peps



A GUIDE TO
INVESTMENT &
UNIT TRUSTS

PART
5

Most of us would prefer not to pay tax, particularly on hard-earned savings made out of income that has been taxed already. Many investors, though, are still overlooking personal equity plans (PEPs), which enable you to invest in unit and investment trusts completely free of tax. Yet Peps are very versatile and can meet a variety of savers' needs. You can use them either to build up savings free of tax or to provide an immediate or future tax-free income. "Peps really have become an investment for all people for all seasons," says Hayden Green, financial adviser at The Pep Shop in Nottingham.

This was not the case when they were first introduced in 1987, when the bulk of your Pep had to be invested directly in shares. But these days, because it is possible to invest through unit and investment trusts which provide you with a widely diversified and professionally managed portfolio of shares or bonds, the risk element is reduced. Moreover, unlike other tax-efficient forms of saving, such as Tassas and pension plans, your money is not locked away for a fixed period or until retirement. Though a five-year time scale is usually recommended to obtain the best results, if you need to get your hands on your Pep cash earlier, you can do so without losing any tax advantages and normally without penalty. "One of

TOP TEN PEPABLE TRUSTS			
Unit Trust	£100 invested after 5 years	Investment Trust	£100 invested after 5 years
Proflig Technology	479	Henderson Strata	355
Framlington Health	372	F & C Enterprise	351
Gartmore Am. Emerg. Grth	371	Gartmore European	348
Hill Sam. UK Emerg. Cos	364	TR Pacific	316
Gartmore Hong Kong	338	Dunedin Enterprise	298
S & P Gold & Exploration	329	Law Debenture	287
Old Mutual Thailand	318	TR European Growth	264
Morgan Grenfell European	316	Personal Assets	260
Old Mutual Hong Kong	312	Gartmore Emerg. Pacific	257
Jupiter Income	309	English & Scottish	293

Source: Mirostat, performance to 1.6.96 with gross income reinvested.

society but also put some, not more than about 40 per cent, in a Pep."

You don't have to invest huge amounts in a Pep. Lump sums of £500 or £1,000 will be accepted, or you could make regular savings of £20 to £50 a month. The maximum you can put into a unit or investment trust Pep in any one tax year is £6,000. Couples can invest £12,000.

The tax advantages are not the only reason for investing in a Pep: there are also investment benefits. You can

choose from a variety of unit and investment trust Peps depending on your investment needs and attitude to risk. For those who want a better return than a building society account without too much risk there are corporate bond unit trust Peps.

Many of these trusts are currently yielding 7 per cent or more, and charges tend to be lower than average, particularly on trusts such as the Guinness Flight Value Bond

with a variety of Pepable trusts, such as Perpetual and Morgan Grenfell.

For investors putting the maximum into their Pep, we would suggest a spread of, say, three funds. For smaller investors, there are international trusts such as Perpetual's Pep Growth fund.

International investment trusts, such as Foreign & Colonial and Witan, are also available through Peps.

The tax breaks of Peps can sometimes distract investors from the nature of the underlying investments. However, you must be prepared for some fluctuations in the value of your capital in a Pep because investment markets are volatile.

Mr Green says: "I usually point out to investors that 70 per cent of the time stock markets tend to go up, while for the other 30 per cent they go down. The important thing is not to be too impatient."

However, for those investors who want to know there is a safety net. Legal & General offers one of the few guaranteed Peps. It invests in the company's UK Stock Market unit trust, which tracks the FT-SE 100 and guarantees no loss of capital after five years. It has a 4 per cent initial charge and 2 per cent annual fee.

Where can you buy a Pep? Many of the banks, such as Barclays and TSB, and larger building societies, such as the Halifax and Woolwich, now have their own unit trusts and Peps. Even Marks & Spencer will sell you a Pep.

But to get the best return on your money you need a company with a good, consistent performance record and reasonable charges.

For more advice go to an independent financial adviser. Many specialists in Peps, such as the PepShop (0115 982 5105), BEST Investment (0171 321 0100), Allenbridge (0171 409 1111), and Simpsons (01273 622880).



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Bondholder is tied by terms of investment

Sarah Jones on a B&W investor feeling 'trapped' by his entry into a five-year plan



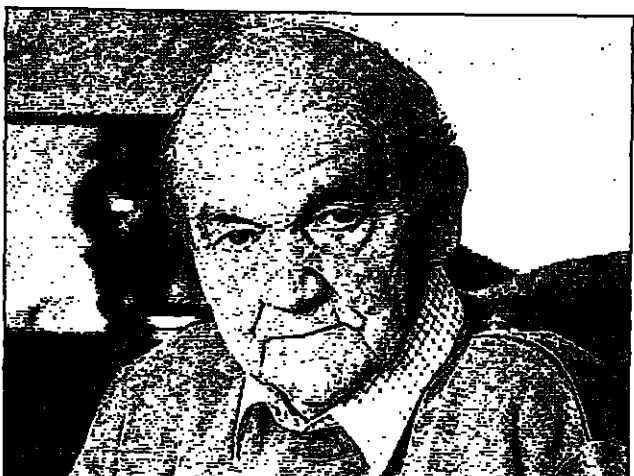
Any savers prepared to tie up their cash in a building society for five years should be deemed long-term investors. But not, it seems, when it comes to building society mergers.

Last November, Cyril Gibbs, of Broadstone, Dorset, invested in Bristol & West's new Premier, Save & Invest Bond, which locks money in for a five-year term. "Existing members, as we were of a few months, were strongly encouraged to invest in the bond and in doing so became, if not necessarily an eligible two-year investing member, a long-term investor in the society. Indeed, when the merger happens the bondholders will be unable to take the money and run but are stuck with a new organisation until December 2000," he said.

Under building society reg-

ulations, borrowers and savers of less than two years' standing are not entitled to receive cash in a takeover or conversion. So when the B&W merges with the Bank of Ireland early next year those members will get preference shares worth £250. B&W's two-year savers — those who had share accounts on December 31, 1994 — will get, on average, a £1,000 bonus. "It seems a travesty of justice to treat five-year bondholders as short-term investors and to deny the right, in view of what has subsequently happened, to withdraw from the bond agreement," Mr Gibbs said.

The society is not sympathetic. A spokesman said: "That's the product that he chose to take out and he is bound by the terms of the account. At least he will be getting £250 of preference shares."



Outraged: Cyril Gibbs feels he has been sold short by B&W

Takeover payout to exceed expectations

The average payout in the Abbey National takeover of the National & Provincial Building Society will be a higher-than-expected £1,300. Members will receive their money between August 27 and September 2, provided that the Building Societies Commission gives the final go-ahead for the deal.

The 460,000 borrowers and savers of less than two years' standing had no option but to take Abbey National shares. Some 22 per cent of the 850,000 savers who had been with the society for more than two years chose shares: the rest took cash. Robert Law, banks analyst at Lehman Brothers, the stockbroker, believes they may have made the right decision. In January this year, Abbey shares, floated in 1989, were at an all-time high of 660p. They have now fallen to about 550p. Mr Law said: "We are taking a negative view of the shares. The continued competition in the mortgage market will erode profitability."

□ The admission balance at some societies is now a four-figure sum, a change made to deter speculators. The Skipton's minimum investment in a share account (carrying membership rights) is £2,000. However, as part of its mutu-

ality reward package, the society has this week introduced a new deposit account, Premier Deposit, which has a minimum investment of £100. Deposit accounts do not carry membership rights. As soon as the balance in the account reaches £2,000, the saver has the option to switch to a share account. Premier Deposit pays from 3 per cent.

□ Little is known about the Alliance & Leicester conversion, due to be completed in April 1997. The society has released few details, as it does not wish to raise false hopes among its three million members. It is not known, for example, whether there will be a basic distribution of free shares, plus an additional distribution for those with larger balances.

However, it emerged this week that the special general meeting to approve the society's plan to become a bank seems likely to take place in mid-December. This means that those who do not have £100 invested must replenish their accounts by September at the latest, or risk losing their entitlement to a payout. Only those with £100 invested 56 days before the extraordinary general meeting (the voting day) will qualify.

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the remaining 40 per cent spread about the rest of the world, with an emphasis on regions with strong long term growth potential such as South-East Asia and emerging markets, and with an emphasis on growth rather than income.

This Fund is similar to our existing highly successful Portfolio Fund of Funds, except that it will be managed more aggressively and with more of an international flavour. This will give it more scope for growth, although with a slightly higher degree of risk. Nevertheless the fund of funds principle automatically limits the risk through wide diversification while at the same time giving access to a carefully chosen portfolio of what we consider to be the most promising funds available.

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There are two ways to subscribe. The best way is get in touch with a SIB-registered independent financial adviser who can advise you about the Performance PEP and give you an application form to complete; alternatively, you can write directly to us for a brochure. This includes an application form, a spare application form for your partner, and a form for transferring an existing PEP into Portfolio Performance PEP.

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Units will be allocated at a fixed initial offer price of 50p until Friday 5 July 1996. From Monday 8 July 1996 they will be allocated at the ruling offer price. The minimum investment is £1,000.

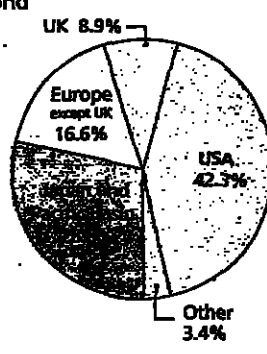
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A PEP is currently completely free of all tax. Any tax paid on the income is claimed back for you and reinvested, and your proceeds will be free of any capital gains tax. A PEP is completely outside the tax net to the extent that you do not even have to include it in your tax return. In exchange for these concessions there are limits on the amount you can invest: £6,000 in each tax year into a 'general' PEP like Portfolio Performance PEP, and £3,000 in each tax year into the special 'single company' PEPs. The tax benefits become more and more significant the longer you keep your PEP going and you should always regard a PEP as a long term investment.

THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL DIVERSIFICATION

PEPs were originally confined to UK equities alone, but the UK stock market is only a small part of the world market for equities. In the FT World Index it accounts for less than 9%.

The PEP rules have now been relaxed so that a qualifying fund need have just 50% in UK and other European Union equities combined. This has given scope for a fully international fund like Portfolio Performance Fund to concentrate on the prime growth areas of South-East Asia and emerging markets while at the same time giving some exposure to the USA and to Japan. The fund of funds principle is ideal for such wide diversification: no one fund manager can ever be the leader in all areas at once.



Source: FT/Exel

Track record

Over the five years to 3 May 1996 the value of units of the existing Portfolio Fund of Funds (offer to bid, with net income reinvested) rose by 110.0%, the best performance over the period of any of the funds of funds monitored by Hindsight, the specialist unit trust performance measurement service. The Fund was also best performer over six years (up 118.4%), four years (up 104.5%) and three years (up 64.4%).

It should be noted, however, that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance.

Investors should also bear in mind that the value of a unit trust investment and the income from it can go down as well as up.

Automatic discounts

The initial charge is 6% but investors subscribing for a full PEP of £6,000 will receive an automatic discount of 1%. The minimum subscription is £1,000. For any PEP transfer the discount is 2%. On non-PEP investments there is a discount of 1% from £6,000 to £9,999 and 2% from £10,000.

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The annual charge is 1.75%, but only so long as the fund's performance can justify it. If at the end of the first year the fund has not achieved first quartile performance the charge will be rebated to 1.00% until the performance from launch is back in the first quartile of funds of funds. After three years, measurement will be on the basis of the rolling three year performance. There is no additional charge for the PEP.

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS



Savings drained: Nancy Loud was quoted by Age Concern as an example of the system's failure

Anne Ashworth and Sarah Jones look at proposals for elderly care policies

Watchdog call for long-term care

The Government is coming under increasing pressure to bring long-term care insurance policies under the control of the investment watchdog bodies, or risk a scandal equal to the personal pension mis-selling debacle.

At present, the selling of such schemes is unregulated, leading to fears that unscrupulous operators will move into this area, as the State decreases the help it gives to sick and incapacitated elderly people.

Sales of other long-term investments, such as pensions, are all covered by the Financial Services Act.

The Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the watchdog which oversees life insurance companies and financial advisers, has told the Treasury that long-term care cover should come within the Act.

A PIA spokesman said: "These policies should be regulated, as the premiums can be substantial, sometimes in five figures. The move has the support of the industry."

Among those supporting the regulation of the market is PPP Lifetime Care, the leading player in the field. Independent financial advisers who specialise in long-term care are of the same view but they are concerned that amending the Act would take too long.

Martin Telling, chairman of the IFA Association long-term care working party, proposes another solution.

"We want these products to be regulated immediately by special permission in contract with the PIA," he said.

The calls for the regulation of the long-term care market come as ministers begin to consider submissions to its controversial residential care proposals.

These aim to shift further the cost burden of care from the State to the individual.

states, those who foot the bill for their care for a set period can rest assured that the state will contribute thereafter.

In the UK, anyone with assets of more than £16,000 must meet the full bill for their care, without local authority help.

It is suggested that the Government could disregard an extra £1.50 worth of capital, in addition to the £16,000, for every £1 of insurance benefit paid out. So if you take out insurance to cover care costs of £40,000, assets of £60,000 (the

Loud, 80, who is seeing all her life savings wiped out by paying for nursing care for her husband George, 86, who is suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Mr Loud has been in a home for eight years and during that time, nursing has been the most expensive element of his care.

Age Concern also believes that the protected amount should be doubled to £2.

It also rejects another government proposal — equity-release loan schemes allowing pensioners to raise money

that pensions should be made more flexible, so that pensioners start off with a lower pension but see their payments increase when they fall a certain number of Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), such as dressing, washing or feeding. Failure of ADLs is the usual trigger for a payout from a long-term care policy.

Commercial Union, however, argues that pensions cannot provide for long-term care because of tax complications and because many people's pension funds are already inadequate.

In its submission, it points out: "Mixing these two tax regimes will result in unnecessary complexity, uncertainty and concerns for the individual in relation to their ultimate income."

Some companies are cynical about any attempt by either the Conservatives or a future Labour government to soften the blow of paying for care.

Penny O'Nions, an independent financial adviser and medical specialist, said: "The stark reality is that those who can afford it will be forced to pay for their long-term care. Ultimately there will be a form of compulsory insurance, a sort of National Insurance paid to your employer, which will build up your own fund for long-term care."

The industry says the policies should be regulated, as premiums can be substantial, sometimes in five figures

with incentives for self-help. A New Partnership for Care in Old Age, the government consultative document, puts forward a number of schemes which would reward those who make provision for residential or nursing home costs.

These include American-style partnership schemes that protect the assets of those who take out long-term care insurance.

This would mean that pensioners could go into a home without fearing that all their capital would be exhausted by fees. In certain American

average house value) will be protected. However, most submissions are calling for the rate to be raised to £2 of capital disregard for every £1 of insurance. That way, someone with a house worth £90,000, the South East average, would need to buy £45,000 of cover as opposed to over-insurance of £60,000.

The most outspoken opponent is Age Concern, the pressure group. Age Concern believes that nursing care in a home should be free, like nursing care in a hospital.

It cites the case of Nancy

against the value of their homes. The pressure group argues that the elderly who wish to have something to pass on to their children do not want to see their homes diminish in value.

Although they stand to benefit from the promotion of insurance schemes, not all insurance companies are at one with the Government.

The Prudential, for example, rejects the idea of insurance, recommending instead that long-term care costs should be linked to pensions.

The Prudential proposes

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Q Can you explain how the procedure works?

A Inheritance tax is charged at 40 per cent on all estates of more than £200,000, an amount which includes your home, your other assets and the proceeds of life policies.

By writing the policy in trust you ensure that the cash bypasses the estate and goes straight to your dependants, without allowing the taxman to carve off his slice. You form

the trust by completing a special form supplied by your life insurance company. The company notes your intentions and if a claim is made, the proceeds will be paid according to the instructions in the trust document. In most cases, you will be creating a flexible trust where you can change the names of beneficiaries.

If you have a company

A That is true. However, it may be still be worth-while writing term policies in trust, as Tony Foreman, Partner at Kerr Foreman, Partner and author of *Don't pay too much Inheritance Tax* said: "There's a considerable practical benefit. The insurance company can pay the proceeds to your widow or widower without requiring probate, since the cash is payable to the

Patrick Buntion, of London & Country, a Bath life insurance specialist, said: "The trick is to specify in the trust document that the policy payout should go to the children, provided neither partner survives for 14 days. If neither of you survives, then the cash goes to your children, without any inheritance tax. But if one of you survives, then the money goes to him or her."

A QUESTION OF MONEY

Q Which types of policy should be written in trust?

A The advice applies to term policies, the simplest kind of life cover. These pay out only if you die. An endowment policy linked to a mortgage would not normally be written in trust, as the payout matches a debt, the outstanding amount on your mortgage.

ANNE ASHWORTH

Inheritance savaged

WHEN David Bruton's mother died, he was appalled to discover that inheritance tax was payable on the life insurance that she had taken out to help her children on her death.

Mr Bruton, of Colchester, says: "This sliced 40 per cent off the value of the insurance payment. I know that my mother did not expect this to happen and I question the way these policies are set up and the advice that she was given."

The Vanbrugh Life policy was sold to his mother by Lowndes Lambert Financial Services 20 years ago. Prudential now owns Vanbrugh and, therefore, paid out on the policy.

Norman Turner, Prudential financial planning manager, says: "There is little we can do to help. We took over the business, but we have to pay out on how the policy was set up. If we had

sold the policy, we would have been able to check our records for what the client requested. Our salesmen have training to ensure they set up policies according to clients' needs and regularly review those needs."

Lowndes Lambert says that its records do not go back 20 years and, therefore, it cannot check whether the policy was set up in the right way. It is, however, incumbent on insurance brokers regularly to review clients' needs — a life policy can, for example, be put into trust at a later date.

Penny O'Nions, an Amersham-based independent financial adviser, says: "Life insurance can be a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it is a benefit to those left behind. On the other, it will increase their tax liability. It is up to the adviser to foresee such a problem."

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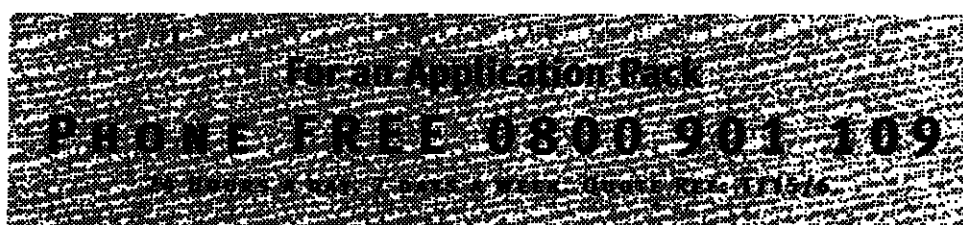
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Jody Brett Kelly on craving certainty, and its cost



Few things in life are completely guaranteed, as Double Indemnity showed

How sure can you be of a guarantee?

There is something magical about the word "guarantee". Investors love it when it means that their money is safe but can still gain from rises in the stock market. However, take care. "Guarantee" can mean less than expected. The Times this week revealed that HSBC Asset Management, the fund management arm of the international banking group, had been forced to send out 13,500 letters to clarify its use of "guarantee" in literature for its Pep Plus.

The product was launched last month and celebrated for innovativeness. It is a single company Pep tracking the FTSE index, and, as such, permits investment of both a single company and a general Pep allowance, totalling £9,000. Brochures said that it aimed to keep money secure, but company press releases said "guaranteed". Under Investment Management Regulatory Organisation rules, "guarantee" can be used

only if a provider makes the guarantee to the investor, not if some third party makes a guarantee to the provider. Pep Plus promises the return of your original investment and 133 per cent of any stock market rise, but that is not a guarantee.

There was some debate over whether a "g", rather than a "G", lessened the meaning of "guarantee", but Imro says: "Guaranteed is guaranteed. Companies can use the words 'capital assured' but not the word 'guaranteed' unless there is a third-party guarantee."

Johnson Fry calls its a corporate high-income Pep "secure". This Pep invests in medium-term building society loan notes. Neil Sharman, a director, says that the regulators' rules are slightly unfortunate, adding: "The only risk to the investor's capital is if the building society goes to the wall and that hasn't happened in 100 years."

The Prudential came under

The risk of guarantees

Growing numbers of investors are being seduced by the prospect of guaranteed returns and are failing to understand the complexities of the schemes in which they are investing. Independent financial advisers said this week.

The warning comes as BZW, the investment arm of Barclays Bank, joins the fray with its FTSE Linker plan. This will track the index of 100 leading shares and promises to give investors 100 per cent of any rise in the market. It also promises to return the capital if the FTSE declines in value. Unlike some similar schemes, the FTSE linker can be cashed in at any time and carries no fees or charges, because it does not pay any interest or dividends.

But John Spiers, director of BEST Investment, has reserva-

tions: "They are designed for unsophisticated investors and I'm not sure these kind of investors need to be in something where they can get out early."

The promise of guaranteed returns has proved attractive to many investors disgusted with

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Income Plan to tell them they will receive only 85 per cent of their initial capital. Sun Life says it never guaranteed the capital and did pay the guaranteed return of 100 per cent a year for five years. Standard Life has said about 2,000 investors will lose about 20 per cent of their initial capital.

Independent financial advisers are also concerned about stock market bonds, which use futures and options to take advantage of the equity market.

Peter Smith, director of Hill Martin, the fee-based adviser, says: "I have never recommended these products. I like sterling bonds and gilts where you know what your payback price will be. We are being leveraged and financial futures everywhere."

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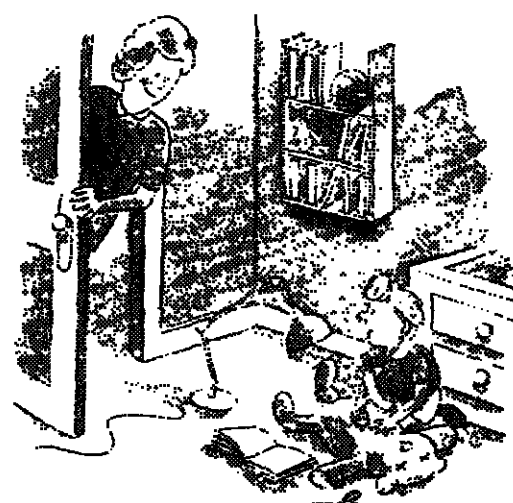
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A break from work can cost women dearly unless they take safeguards, explains Sarah Jones

How carers can bridge gap in NI contributions record



Susan Squire appreciates the value of the Home Responsibilities Protection scheme

When the job changes

Once upon a time, employees climbed to the top of the career tree at the end of their working lives. Today the most successful, best-paid years may come a decade or more before retirement. How this new trend affects the payout from a pension scheme, where the benefits are based on a final salary, is a question posed by a reader from Cambridge:

"One situation which is affecting more and more people, but which is never discussed, is that of the employee who has been a high earner for many years but then, as is happening with increasing regularity, discovers that for the final years of his or her career, earnings are significantly less."

"What, for example, would be the situation of someone who, say, had been earning £75,000 at age 50, had been working for one employer for 30 years on a one-sixtieth scheme [where one sixtieth of salary is put into a pension every year] and been maximising AVC payments throughout. The person is then made redundant and works for a further ten years, full or part-time, for another employer for £25,000 or even

A career switch will mean new calculations, says Sara McConnell

less. Is the maximum pension two thirds of £25,000? One could easily take more extreme examples."

Weekend Money replies: The Inland Revenue rules allow you to retire on a maximum of two thirds of your final salary. Most occupational pension schemes which base benefits on salaries allow pensions to grow at one sixtieth of salary a year. If you worked for the same company for 40 years you would receive forty sixtieths or two thirds of your final salary. The total you put into a pension every year and been maximising AVC payments throughout. The person is then made redundant and works for a further ten years, full or part-time, for another employer for £25,000 or even

However, things become more complicated if you have more than one job. The basic principle, according to Ron Spill, Legal & General's pen-

sions expert, is that the pension you earn in one job is ignored by the Revenue when working out how much you can build up in another job. For example, if you worked for one employer for 30 years and you received one sixtieth of salary a year, you would have built up thirty sixtieths. If you then started another job, you would, for pension purposes, start all over again. If you accrue pensions and AVCs at a rate of one-sixtieth a year in this job and work for another 15 years, you would get fifteen sixtieths. The Revenue would not add 30 and 15 together and say you are exceeding the maximum. It will take each job separately.

The only time it will set a pension from one job against one from another is if you move to a much more lucrative job with big pension benefits, which start accruing faster. Since 1989, generous employers have been able to pay pensions at one thirtieth a year. But for most people whose pensions build up at a more normal one sixtieth, pensions from previous employers will not come into the calculation. The Revenue's Occupational Pension Schemes (PSOI April 1995) is available on 0115 974 1600.



The majority of women will face financial difficulty when they retire because they have not put enough into their pensions during their working lives.

One of the main reasons is that women are more likely than men to have career breaks to bring up families, or to look after a sick or elderly relative. They cannot contribute to a company or personal pension unless they are earning. However, if you do stop work, there is a way of safeguarding your basic state pension.

Susan Squire, from Welwyn Garden City, writes: "I am due to stop work this summer to take maternity leave. I understand the DSS operates the Home Responsibilities Protection scheme, which helps to safeguard the state pension of those people who stay at home to look after someone and therefore do not pay National Insurance. This may be of interest to readers because I was unaware of its existence until I read a leaflet from the Post Office on *Babies and Benefits*."

Weekend Money replies: The amount of basic pension you will normally receive depends on your National Insurance contributions. A woman normally needs 39 qualifying years of NI contributions to

claim a full basic pension. Home Responsibilities Protection (HRP) reduces the number of qualifying years that you need to get an amount of basic pension. But HRP cannot reduce this number to less than 20 years. So, for example, a woman with 20 qualifying years without HRP would receive just 52 per cent of the basic pension. With HRP of ten years, she would be entitled to 69 per cent of the pension, and with HRP of 19 years, she would receive the full amount.

You can claim HRP if you care for a child or a sick or disabled person at home and you do not work at all. You can also claim if you look after someone and work part-time earning less than £3,172 a year.

Yvonne Rose, of Women & Money, the Leeds independent financial adviser, says: "It's worth claiming HRP because it doesn't cost you anything. But in terms of looking after yourself in retirement, it is an insignificant amount. You need to be doing something else. If there is family disposable income, put it into savings, preferably a PEP or a Tessa. That way, you can build up a good lump sum for your retirement, or use it to subsidise additional pension contributions if you go back to work."

And don't forget that men, too, can claim HRP.

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Euro-dreams that turned to nightmares



Despite Nicole's charms, will the French Government's high-profile sell-off of Renault live up to expectations?

Robert Miller looks at how privatisation trusts have fared

While Euro-sceptics and Europhobes continued their shrill public debate this week, a considerable number of investors began to assess the damage done to their particular Euro-dreams. In early 1994, it seemed such a surefire investment bet when Kleinwort Benson and Mercury launched their European privatisation investments trusts that between them pulled in more than £1 billion.

On Monday, the £525 million Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) unveiled a plan to reverse its distinctly lacklustre performance and restore the battered fortunes of its 70,000 followers. The Kepit proposal is to mop up the excess share supply in the market, which has led to the shares trading on a discount to the net asset

value of the underlying holdings in the portfolio of between 15 and 20 per cent. The plan is to buy back 60 per cent of its shares. Buy back your shares to narrow the discount, so the theory goes, and at some point you will begin to create demand for them again.

A number of investment trust watchers, however, believe that Kepit's move is ill-judged and that the trust should have been converted into a unit trust. Kepit argues that unitisation would have led to a damaging asset sale to raise the money to pay off the warrants that investors received at launch. Kepit's investors are not alone in the dilemma, although their trust's performance is worse than for those who piled into the Mercury European Privatisation Investment Trust (Mept). Mept investors are still taking their dose of medicine, a course begun last December, which involves another type of share buyback plan.

So was the European privatisation dream, which has included the high-profile French sell-off of Renault, a false investment dawn, leaving you with little alternative but to cut your losses? Or should you hang on? Over the next four years at least £50 billion worth of Western European privatisations are pencilled in and that figure is likely to be swelled by a growing number of Eastern European countries joining in. This autumn, Deutsche Telekom will come to the German stock market in what is expected to be the world's largest privatisation to date. Vicky Sleddon, co-manager of Mept and formerly of Kepit, points out there is ample room

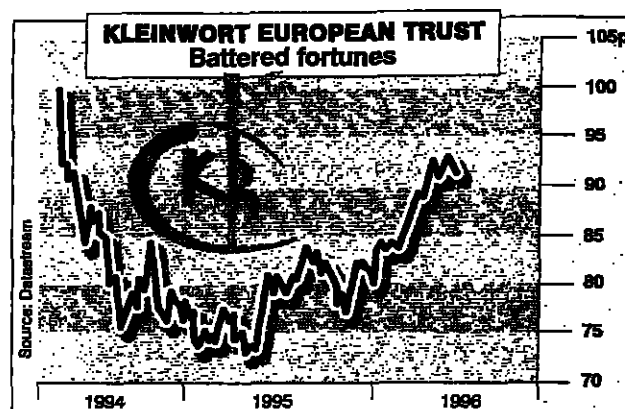
for fiscal pruning: the state-owned German telecoms giant has a £47 billion debt burden — the equivalent to Norway's — total national debt. When the telecoms issue was first flagged last year the company said it hoped to draw in its 250,000 employees.

By involving the workforce, the German telecoms privatisation is attempting to attract a far wider investment audience. Private investors help to create greater interest and, crucially, an after-market in the shares. Until recently, private investor participation has been a feature distinctly lacking in most European privatisations. Spain's privatisation issues now generally include a safety net for private investors where they can sell their shares back to the Government if the price falls below a certain level.

Other factors in the European investment equation include the unravelling of complex and costly social security and welfare arrange-

ments, many of which are considerably more generous than Britain's. Nevertheless, European governments and, in particular, Germany and France, have no choice but to cut these budgets. But dismantling the present system will be a slow process. When the French Government tried late last year there were general strikes and demonstrations. Germany too is having its problems at present and in both countries there have been protracted negotiations and much compromise.

Kleinwort and Mercury have put their investment credibility and reputations on the line over their European privatisation trusts. The underlying investment decision to go for a trust with this particular theme appears to be perfectly sound although investors will have to be patient for at least another year. An added incentive for Kleinwort to at least match the performance of its rival is that if it fails it increases the chance of it becoming the target of a bid — a market rumour that has already gained credence in some quarters.



Portfolio's charges are linked to performance

Portfolio, the fund management group run by Tim Miller, a former Framlington and M&G man, is to launch the first unit trust that will link its charges to performance results.

This concept is a welcome

innovation, but the Portfolio combination of initial and annual charges is on the high side, even allowing for the performance penalty.

The up-front fee for the new Portfolio Performance Fund is a hefty 6 per cent although investors who make full use of their annual £6,000 personal equity plan allowance will receive a 1 per cent discount.

The 1.75 per cent annual charge is one of the highest, but that will be levied only if the newcomer is in the top quarter

trust — a £20 million Fund of Funds, a £5.33 Portfolio Emerging Markets fund and a £11.3 million High Income Fund of Funds. In January, Portfolio became 70 per cent owned by Libert International, the UK subsidiary of Libert, of South Africa.

Mr Miller, Portfolio's chief executive, says of his group's new charging structure: "With more than 1,500 unit trusts on offer from over 160 management groups, the whole process of choosing a unit trust which will produce consistently strong results can be rather a lottery."

He adds: "Our research among both individual unit holders and financial advisers highlights the fact that investors are happy to pay for quality performance rather than pay for poor performance. The new Portfolio Performance Fund meets this need and provides a strong incentive for us as fund managers to achieve consistent quality performance for our unit holders."

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Check that British Gas pays rebate for direct debit bills

From Mr G. Negus
Sir, British Gas offers customers a 6 per cent rebate on the standard tariff if they opt to pay their bills by monthly direct debit. This rebate should take effect from the second quarterly bill after joining the scheme, as the first (next) bill covers gas already used at the standard tariff.

However, it may pay to check that this actually happens. When my second bill arrived, stating that I was paying by direct debit, I noticed that the cost per kWh of gas was the same as that charged eight months previously.

After several tortuous phone calls, British Gas agreed to make a refund in respect of gas overcharged on my last



bill. As this involves gas consumed during chilly February and March, the amount is not insignificant.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY NEGUS,
2 Heathcote Avenue,
Solihull, West Midlands.

Societies in need of clearer guarantees

From Mr J. Good
Sir, Four building societies committed to mutualism are drafting a customer charter. I hope the charter will address, among other matters, the question of guarantees. When a society claims to offer a better rate than other societies, or guarantee a rate at a given percentage above those offered elsewhere, it should either state in its advertising or disclose on inquiry the basis for the claim so that investors are able to establish for themselves that the claim is valid.

Guarantees should also state the period within which rates will be adjusted as and when necessary to ensure that they continue to be met.

The development you have reported is to be welcomed, not least because the Building Societies Association has no code of practice covering the offers its members make to investors. Yours faithfully,
JOHN GOOD,
14 Garden Royal,
Kersfield Road, SW15.

When a free banking entitlement is not as free as it looks

From Mr S. Sherwood
Sir, You may be interested to hear about the following clash that I have recently had with my local branch of the National Westminster Bank. I maintain a credit balance at the branch of approximately

£5,000 and am therefore entitled to "free" banking. I am given an interest credit of one quarter per cent per annum. Since a building society would give me 3½ to 4 per cent, I am effectively being

charged say 3 per cent, so the "free banking facility" is by no means free. Yours faithfully,
S. SHERWOOD,
33 Gwendolen Avenue,
Putney,
SW15.

Move fast to beat cuts in fixed rates

Building societies are poised to withdraw fixed rate savings deals after last week's base rate cuts. They are warning savers that they need to move quickly to take advantage of existing rates before they are replaced by lower ones.

Cuts in instant access and other savings accounts are bound to follow, although no society wants to be the first to announce across-the-board reductions in a cut-throat market.

The Woolwich says its fixed rate bonds are "not expected to last beyond the middle of next week". At the moment, it is paying up to 8.75 per cent gross on £1,000 invested in its three-year stepped rate bond. Its two-year fixed rate bond pays 6.8 per cent gross on balances of £1,000. This compares with 2.1 per cent gross on a £1,000 balance in a Woolwich instant access account.

The Portman Building Society still has its fixed interest bond paying 6 per cent gross on balances of £500 or more, but it emphasises that this will be "for a limited period only". The society says: "Any saver looking to fix the rate of return on his or her savings will have to react very quickly as the market place will see fixed rate products being withdrawn and reissued at lower rates."

Other societies and banks say that they cannot guarantee to hold their rates, although some have gone ahead with fixed rate investment launches in spite of last week's base rate cut.

Abbey National this week announced its four-year Millennium Bond, which pays up to 10 per cent gross on balances of £10,000 or more in the final year before it matures.

Fixed rate savings accounts generally



Millennium hopes: savers can cash in

offer substantially better rates than instant access or other variable rate accounts to those prepared to lock away their money for several years. But they are usually the first victims of any base rate cut.

Building societies negotiate contracts with the money markets that allow them to offer fixed rate investments at specific levels. Cuts in interest rates make such contracts less profitable. Some societies will hold rates until they have used up a tranche of funds bought at a particular price, while others will withdraw immediately. Societies report a big demand for

fixed interest investments as interest rates continue to fall. But many people are still unaware of just how bad rates are on ordinary instant access and notice accounts, according to a recent survey by Save & Prosper.

A majority of savers thought they were receiving twice as much interest on their savings as they really were. When asked how much they thought they would get on £1,000 in an instant access account, the average figure savers suggested was 3.8 per cent net of tax. They would actually receive only 2 per cent net.

The cutting of rates offered to savers is a sensitive issue for building societies. Savers outnumber borrowers five to one, but societies are under pressure to cut mortgage rates to revive the housing market and, at the same time, preserve their margin between what they pay out to savers and what they take in from borrowers.

Building societies that want to stay mutual, rather than converting to bank status, have also belatedly recognised the need to demonstrate the benefits of mutualism through better interest rates. None of the major societies was prepared to commit itself to a date for cutting savers' rates.

National Savings has also said that there would be no change in its rates for the time being. The 43rd issue of its fixed rate savings certificate is paying 5.3 per cent tax free on investments of £100 or more for five years. The ninth issue of its five year index-linked savings certificates are paying 2.5 per cent plus inflation.

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

	1995		Price		Ytd	
	High	Low	Change	±	%	
499	558	549 1/2	Uyen Chen	481	+ 3	2.1
188	149 1/2	147 1/2	...	...	...	...
407 1/2	415 1/2	415 1/2	Marlin Spencer	486	+ 2 1/2	29.7
635	625	625	Marbles (John)	561	...	2.8
20	15 1/2	14 1/2	Marshall Heller	19	...	...
1200	615	615	Rock	587	...	19.2
562	620	620	(Neil)	567	+ 9	2.6
63	42	42	Oliver (C)	42	- 1	...
535	400	400	Outback Inc	520	...	29
56	56	56	Partidge Inc	80	...	4.1
54	52	52	St. Hilary	42	...	...
19	19	19	Thimo Gap	161	...	...
241	191	190 1/2	Rocky	241	...	29.1

[illegible]

151	73	DCS	140	13	22
152	73	DCS	140	13	22
153	73	DCS	140	13	22
154	73	DCS	140	13	22
155	73	DCS	140	13	22
156	73	DCS	140	13	22
157	73	DCS	140	13	22
158	73	DCS	140	13	22
159	73	DCS	140	13	22
160	73	DCS	140	13	22
161	73	DCS	140	13	22
162	73	DCS	140	13	22
163	73	DCS	140	13	22
164	73	DCS	140	13	22
165	73	DCS	140	13	22
166	73	DCS	140	13	22
167	73	DCS	140	13	22
168	73	DCS	140	13	22
169	73	DCS	140	13	22
170	73	DCS	140	13	22
171	73	DCS	140	13	22
172	73	DCS	140	13	22
173	73	DCS	140	13	22
174	73	DCS	140	13	22
175	73	DCS	140	13	22
176	73	DCS	140	13	22
177	73	DCS	140	13	22
178	73	DCS	140	13	22
179	73	DCS	140	13	22
180	73	DCS	140	13	22
181	73	DCS	140	13	22
182	73	DCS	140	13	22
183	73	DCS	140	13	22
184	73	DCS	140	13	22
185	73	DCS	140	13	22
186	73	DCS	140	13	22
187	73	DCS	140	13	22
188	73	DCS	140	13	22
189	73	DCS	140	13	22
190	73	DCS	140	13	22
191	73	DCS	140	13	22
192	73	DCS	140	13	22
193	73	DCS	140	13	22
194	73	DCS	140	13	22
195	73	DCS	140	13	22
196	73	DCS	140	13	22
197	73	DCS	140	13	22
198	73	DCS	140	13	22
199	73	DCS	140	13	22
200	73	DCS	140	13	22

245	134	Reliance Corp.	249	31	25
246	134	Reliance Corp.	250	31	25
247	134	Reliance Corp.	251	31	25
248	134	Reliance Corp.	252	31	25
249	134	Reliance Corp.	253	31	25
250	134	Reliance Corp.	254	31	25
251	134	Reliance Corp.	255	31	25
252	134	Reliance Corp.	256	31	25
253	134	Reliance Corp.	257	31	25
254	134	Reliance Corp.	258	31	25
255	134	Reliance Corp.	259	31	25
256	134	Reliance Corp.	260	31	25
257	134	Reliance Corp.	261	31	25
258	134	Reliance Corp.	262	31	25
259	134	Reliance Corp.	263	31	25
260	134	Reliance Corp.	264	31	25
261	134	Reliance Corp.	265	31	25
262	134	Reliance Corp.	266	31	25
263	134	Reliance Corp.	267	31	25
264	134	Reliance Corp.	268	31	25
265	134	Reliance Corp.	269	31	25
266	134	Reliance Corp.	270	31	25
267	134	Reliance Corp.	271	31	25
268	134	Reliance Corp.	272	31	25
269	134	Reliance Corp.	273	31	25
270	134	Reliance Corp.	274	31	25
271	134	Reliance Corp.	275	31	25
272	134	Reliance Corp.	276	31	25
273	134	Reliance Corp.	277	31	25
274	134	Reliance Corp.	278	31	25
275	134	Reliance Corp.	279	31	25
276	134	Reliance Corp.	280	31	25
277	134	Reliance Corp.	281	31	25
278	134	Reliance Corp.	282	31	25
279	134	Reliance Corp.	283	31	25
280	134	Reliance Corp.	284	31	25
281	134	Reliance Corp.	285	31	25
282	134	Reliance Corp.	286	31	25
283	134	Reliance Corp.	287	31	25
284	134	Reliance Corp.	288	31	25
285	134	Reliance Corp.	289	31	25
286	134	Reliance Corp.	290	31	25
287	134	Reliance Corp.	291	31	25
288	134	Reliance Corp.	292	31	25
289	134	Reliance Corp.	293	31	25
290	134	Reliance Corp.	294	31	25
291	134	Reliance Corp.	295	31	25
292	134	Reliance Corp.	296	31	25
293	134	Reliance Corp.	297	31	25
294	134	Reliance Corp.	298	31	25
295	134	Reliance Corp.	299	31	25
296	134	Reliance Corp.	300	31	25
297	134	Reliance Corp.	301	31	25
298	134	Reliance Corp.	302	31	25
299	134	Reliance Corp.	303	31	25
300	134	Reliance Corp.	304	31	25
301	134	Reliance Corp.	305	31	25
302	134	Reliance Corp.	306	31	25
303	134	Reliance Corp.	307	31	25
304	134	Reliance Corp.	308	31	25
305	134	Reliance Corp.	309	31	25
306	134	Reliance Corp.	310	31	25
307	134	Reliance Corp.	311	31	25
308	134	Reliance Corp.	312	31	25
309	134	Reliance Corp.	313	31	25
310	134	Reliance Corp.	314	31	25
311	13				

255	320	IT	269	-2	6.5
552	241	Cable Wiretrans	118	-4	3.0
127	83	Telecom	119	0	0
127	83	Telecom	120	0	0
127	83	Telecom	121	0	0
127	83	Telecom	122	0	0
127	83	Telecom	123	0	0
127	83	Telecom	124	0	0
127	83	Telecom	125	0	0
127	83	Telecom	126	0	0
127	83	Telecom	127	0	0
127	83	Telecom	128	0	0
127	83	Telecom	129	0	0
127	83	Telecom	130	0	0
127	83	Telecom	131	0	0
127	83	Telecom	132	0	0
127	83	Telecom	133	0	0
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127	83	Telecom	135	0	0
127	83	Telecom	136	0	0
127	83	Telecom	137	0	0
127	83	Telecom	138	0	0
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127	83	Telecom	146	0	0
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127	83	Telecom	148	0	0
127	83	Telecom	149	0	0
127	83	Telecom	150	0	0
127	83	Telecom	151	0	0
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127	83	Telecom	153	0	0
127	83	Telecom	154	0	0
127	83	Telecom	155	0	0
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127	83	Telecom	159	0	0
127	83	Telecom	160	0	0
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127	83	Telecom	162	0	0
127	83	Telecom	163	0	0
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127	83	Telecom	166	0	0
127	83	Telecom	167	0	0
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127	83	Telecom	191	0	0
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127	83	Telecom	255	0	0
127	83	Telecom	256	0	0
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127	83	Telecom	267	0	0
127	83	Telecom	268	0	0
127	83	Telecom	269	0	0
127	83	Telecom	270	0	0
127	83	Telecom	271	0	0
127	83	Telecom	272	0	0
127	83	Telecom	273	0	0
127	83	Telecom	274	0	0
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127	83	Telecom	276	0	0
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127	83	Telecom	291	0	0
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127	83	Telecom	293	0	0
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127	83	Telecom	295	0	0
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127	83	Telecom	297	0	0
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127	83	Telecom	301	0	0
127	83	Telecom	302	0	0
127	83	Telecom	303	0	0
127	83	Telecom	304	0	0
127	83	Telecom	305	0	0
127	83	Telecom	306	0	0
127	83	Telecom	307	0	0
127	83	Telecom	308	0	0
127	83	Telecom	309	0	0
127	83	Telecom	310	0	0
127	83	Telecom	311	0	0
127	83	Telecom	312	0	0
127	83	Telecom			

[illegible][illegible]

87	54	South	52	+	1	49	26
88	54	South	52	+	1	49	26
89	54	South	52	+	1	49	26
90	54	South	52	+	1	49	26
91	54	South	52	+	1	49	26
92	54	South	52	+	1	49	26
93	54	South	52	+	1	49	26
94	54	South	52	+	1	49	26
95	54	South	52	+	1	49	26
96	54	South	52	+	1	49	26
97	54	South	52	+	1	49	26
98	54	South	52	+	1	49	26
99	54	South	52	+	1	49	26
100	54	South	52	+	1	49	26

WATER

631	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
632	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
633	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
634	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
635	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
636	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
637	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
638	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
639	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
640	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
641	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
642	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
643	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
644	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
645	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
646	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
647	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
648	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
649	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6
650	512	Anglo	524	+	6	68	6

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

56	18	Atlantic Reclat	45	-	-	1.8	
170	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
210	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
250	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
290	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
330	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
370	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
410	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
450	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
490	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
530	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
570	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
610	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
650	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
690	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
730	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
770	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
810	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
850	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
890	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
930	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
970	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4
1010	95	Cole Bros	190	+	3	2.4	1.4

335	16	Fransisco	34		
117	92	Memoirs	104	+ 2	
475	118	Memory Corp	112	+ 3	
150	90	Old English Pub	146	+ 1	0.9
40	34	Old English Pub	419		
595	534	Southam News	564		3.5 1.4
68	40	Southam News	65		
315	122	Susby Pr Inc	300	- 10	0.8 30
74	45	Traveller	67	+ 4	

Source: Fraser & Neave Ltd.

US LBOs of Fraser & Neave, Inc. (F&N) disclosed in the table above are based on the following assumptions:

Figures are reported in millions of dollars.

Companies are not all acquirers of the FTSE 100 Index.

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UNIT TRUST PRICES				UNIT TRUST PRICES				UNIT TRUST PRICES				UNIT TRUST PRICES			
Unit	Price	Change	%	Unit	Price	Change	%	Unit	Price	Change	%	Unit	Price	Change	%
UNIT TRUST PRICES															
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GOLF: TRAUMAS FORGOTTEN AS PAIR PASS TESTS OF CHARACTER IN SECOND ROUND OF US OPEN

Woods and Norman back on track

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, AT OAKLAND HILLS

SOMETIMES, in golf, you can be in precisely the right spot at the correct time. So it was as the groupings of Tiger Woods, John Daly and Corey Pavin and Greg Norman, Frank Nobilo and Jay Haas reached the conclusions of their second rounds in the US Open at Oakland Hills.

It was not just the setting, though that was tranquil enough. The 16th and 17th greens are separated by less than 200 yards and, as the penultimate hole is raised, it is possible to look down from it to the green behind. Nor was it that there were three winners of major championships among the six contestants as well as a young amateur whose achievements might yet exceed all theirs.

It was that Woods in the first group and Norman in the second were both staging comebacks of considerable merit on a course that is so hard that only 12 men beat par in the first round. Woods, the 20-year-old prodigy, was trying to eradicate the memory of the way he had dropped nine strokes in five holes in his first round, plunging from three under par to six over. Norman, 41, was attempting to rehabilitate himself in a major championship after the traumatic circumstances surrounding his fourth round in the US Masters in April, when he lost a six-stroke lead and took a 78.

Woods had taken an eight, four over par, at the 16th in his first round, twice hitting into the water. Now, barely 18 hours later, he struck his second shot bravely at the flag, which was nearer to the water than it had been the night before, and it plunged into the soft surface of the green. This time it did not spin back under the force of the backspin he had put on it. The ball stopped

eight feet away and he sank the putt.

On the short 17th, Pavin, the reigning champion, Woods and Daly, the Open champion, hit their tee shots close to the flag and Woods was lining up his putt when a huge roar went up from the 16th. Norman had held his approach shot of 144 yards, hit with an eight-iron. The ball pitched six feet past the flag, spun back and disappeared into the hole. An eagle took Norman to four under par for the day, one under par overall.

The cheering just would not die down and Daly and Pavin stood side by side at the edge of the 17th green staring at the little lake that laps the green and approached the putting surface. Woods, meanwhile, was lining up his 30-foot, downhill putt over a shoulder in the 17th green. Another birdie would put him one under for the day, five over the tournament and in with a chance of beating the 36-hole cut. Woods held it and now it was Norman's turn to stand and watch as the roars greeting Woods's putt rolled back to the 16th green.

Woods, who was taking antibiotics against an allergy that flared up last week, parred the last two holes for a 66. It was the lowest score in this year's Open and only one stroke off the course record. He would be one of very few men under par at the halfway stage of this tournament.

Woods, attempting to reach the third round of a US Open for the first time, got up and down from a greenside bunker for a par on the difficult last hole for a 69 and a 36-hole total of 145. He had a smile on his face as he walked off the green and up to the room where he would check his card, sign it and hand it in. "He's shown some intestinal fortitude," an official said. "That was some round after what had happened to him last night."

Daly, who had a 69 and is one over par, was equally impressed. "I used to attack the ball like a tiger does," he said. "He hits everything hard. If he could learn to hit it down a little, it would help."

"He has to learn to work the ball a little more. He also needs to learn the three-quarter shot. I used not to know how to play that shot and it took me three or four years before I learnt it and I showed I could do it at the British (Open) last year."

So, too, had Norman. "I got myself back into contention today and that is very important to me," Norman said. "What happened in the past is no indication of what is going to happen in the future."

Look at Tom Watson. He won the other day when everyone thought he never would again. He did that because he is a winner. Well, I am a winner, too, and I will win again."

Danger on tee, page 6

Norman sizes up a putt on his way to a round of 66 at Oakland Hills yesterday



Norman sizes up a putt on his way to a round of 66 at Oakland Hills yesterday

Gustafson takes wing as rival proves too slow

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN SCHENEBY, FRANCE

HAWKS rode the thermals above the course and hawk-eyed officials with stop-watches roamed the fairways as Sophie Gustafson, an engaging Swede, breezed into the lead in the second round of the Deesse Swiss Open at Golf and Country Club de Maison Blanche yesterday.

Gustafson, who won her first tournament as a professional four weeks ago in Sweden, has a stutter that manifests itself more when she is speaking English than Swedish and not at all when she is giving voice (very tune-fully) on karaoke nights.

Yesterday there was no stuttering on the course as she recorded her second successive 69, racking up five birdies and dropping only one shot, at the 6th, where she three-putted.

Gustafson's total of 138, eight under par, left her one shot ahead of Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, who was warned for slow play for the first time in her distinguished career but remained composed enough to finish with a 70. Patricia Meunier Lebourg, another Frenchwoman, was third on 140.

De Lorenzi and her group, which included Lora Fairclough, the Lancastrian anxious to retain her Solheim Cup place, were told they were eight minutes out of position at the turn and, with the American Express Tour commendably clamping down on slow play, a referee in a buggy dogged the trio over the next few holes.

Fairclough was spoken to on the 5th tee after twice taking too long on a shot and de Lorenzi was warned on the 6th tee — they had started at the 10th. It was the French-

woman's putting routine that exceeded the time limit twice and another transgression would have meant a one-stroke penalty.

De Lorenzi, who confessed that she had not read the new pace-of-play regulations, was in favour of the system and Fairclough, after an initial bridling, accepted she had been in the wrong. "It won't happen again," she said. She just made the cut on the mark of 149, three over par, as did her fellow Solheim Cup hopeful, Kathryn Marshall.

Sofia Gronberg, who shared the lead after the first round, was also put under the watch and was a less-contented Swede after a second round of 76. Out of sorts because Anna, her two-year-old daughter, had woken up at 2.30am demanding a hamburger, she was a trifle frazzled from the off. Pulling her own trolley up and down the inevitable slopes on a course that nestles between the Jura and the French Alps did nothing to help her cause and she dropped five shots in her last eight holes.

LEADING SECOND-ROUND SCORES (69 and tie unless stated): 126: S. Gustafson (Swe) 72, 71; S. de Lorenzi (Fra) 69, 70; 140: P. Meunier Lebourg (Fra) 72, 68; 141: C. Watson (Swe) 71, 70; 142: L. Fairclough (Eng) 72, 68; 143: F. Dasso (Fra) 72, 68; 144: H. Wiesner (Ger) 70, 70; 145: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 146: M. de Lorenzi (Fra) 73, 70; 147: J. Marshall (Eng) 73, 70; 148: L. Fairclough (Eng) 73, 70; 149: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 150: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 151: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 152: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 153: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 154: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 155: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 156: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 157: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 158: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 159: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 160: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 161: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 162: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 163: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 164: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 165: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 166: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 167: S. Gronberg (Swe) 76, 70; 168: S. 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Stewart in line for Test recall

Likely 13: Atherton, Knight, Hussain, Thorpe, Hick, Irani, Russell, Lewis, Cork, Patel, Mullally, Martin, Stewart.



McGrath. He and Moxon added 112 for the fourth wicket. When the latter was out, athletically caught at long leg by Moles, McGrath carried on in much the same vein, reaching a half-century before the close.

Moxon's innings lasted 316 balls and included 17 fours and a six lofed over mid-wicket off Smith, who otherwise bowled with considerable control. For once, more overs were bowled during the day — 115 — than the statutory requirement. This is a captivating contest, but four days might not be enough to settle it.

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CULLING SCANDAL OF TOP RACE HORSE OWNER

Even so, it was Emburey, and Northamptonshire, who had the last laugh. Hussain, who scored an effortless half-century during a second-wicket stand of 104, struck Emburey's fourth ball of the day out of the ground and the replacement ball was not to Gooch's liking. He asked the groundsstaff to find the original ball, which they did. On the resumption, this ball was swung dramatically for Paul Taylor, who quickly brought balls back into Hussain and Gooch to have both leg-before and extended his spell to five wickets for 16 in 48 balls. He finished with seven for 88.

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MOTOR RACING: AFTER SETBACKS IN MONACO AND SPAIN, CHAMPIONSHIP LEADER MAKES FINISHING HIS PRIORITY IN CANADA

Hill seeks to regain control halfway to summit



Hill: realistic objective

FROM ANDREW LONGMURE
IN MONTREAL

FROM the leader of the Williams-Renault team and world champion-in-waiting, the prediction was unambiguous, if realistic. "My goal for this weekend is to finish the race," Damon Hill said on the eve of first timed practice for the Canadian Grand Prix here tomorrow.

Such modesty did not look appropriate yesterday as Hill narrowly pipped his old rival, world champion Michael Schumacher, in the first unofficial practice session but the duel had a familiar air to it, less than four hundredths of a second separating the two, with Berger and Alesi trailing.

The Canadian Grand Prix marks the halfway point in the season, a natural time for measurement and recalculation, but Hill has more reason than most to be glancing over his shoulder. A championship

which seemed a foregone conclusion after victories in four of the first five races of the season is in danger of developing into exactly the sort of dogfight the Englishman was desperate to avoid.

In Barcelona, more than just points were lost. Though Schumacher had gambled with full wet settings on that sudden afternoon while Hill had only gone halfway on his Williams, for most outsiders the sight of the world champion driving off into the spray while his rival pirouetted like a clockwork baller dancer was confirmation of the status quo.

Hill's pride was hurt. He was made to look stupid and constant references yesterday to the disappointment of defeat in Spain, which added to the ignominy of the blown engine in Monaco, suggest that a good showing here is critical to his mental equilibrium for the second half of the year.

MONTREAL DETAILS

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS (after seven rounds) Drivers: 1. D Hill (GB) 43pts; 2 equal J Villeneuve (Can) and M Schumacher (Ger) 26; 4. J Alesi (Fr) 17; 5. O Pironi (Fr) 11; 6. D Coulthard (GB) 10; 7. E Irvine (GB) 9; 8. M Hakkinen (Fin) 8; 9 equal R Barrichello (Br) and G Berger (Aust) 7; 11. H-H Frentzen (Ger) 6; 12. M Salo (Fin) 5; 13. J Herbert (GB) 4; 14 equal J Verstappen (Hol) M Brundle (GB) and P Dini (Br) 1. Constructors: 1. Williams 60pts; 2. Ferrari 35; 3.

Benetton 24; 4. McLaren 18; 5. Ligier 12; 6. Sauber 10; 7. Jordan 8; 8. Tyrrell 5; 9. Footwork 1

REMAINING GRANDS PRIX: Tomorrow: Canada, Montreal, June 23; France, Magny Cours, July 14; British, Silverstone, July 28; Germany, Hockenheim, Aug 11; Hungary, Budapest, Aug 25; Belgium, Spa-Francorchamps, Sept 8; Italian, Monza, Sept 22; Portuguese, Estoril, Oct 13; Japanese, Suzuka

"I still believe we have the best package in the pit-lane," Hill said. "I certainly feel I am driving better than ever, but the last two races have been pretty miserable experiences and, in that sense, just finishing the race would be progress."

Before the start of the season, Hill would have settled for a 17-point lead at this stage, but his early dominance warped those expectations and heightened the frustration at his inability to put more daylight

between himself and Schumacher. Hill's decision to take a week away from the car, to spend time with his family and to work on his fitness instead of testing, also reflects his need to regroup.

To complicate matters further, Hill has to contend with a teammate desperate to satisfy the demands of "Jacomania" and with a track of slow turns and one blindingly fast straight which could suit the Ferrari better than Williams.

For once, Hill is not the centre of attention. According to national television, this is a match between Jacques Villeneuve and Schumacher, with some chap called Hill merely driving a car irritatingly similar to their hero's. Though Hill denied that the pressure was largely off him, the rare luxury of vacating centre stage might work to his advantage if the inexperienced Villeneuve finds the spotlight too intense.

Hill was not counting on it nor was he about to help his colleague out. "Jacques is very much someone who knows what he wants and knows how to get it," Hill said. "I would not presume to give him any advice. To be honest, I've not seen him yet. Is he in hiding?" If Hill wins at Villeneuve's expense, a quick fit through the back door might be advisable.

No one, though, will have greater cause for pride tomorrow nor deserve a touch of good fortune more than Martin Brundle, who

will set aside the whispers announcing his imminent removal from the Jordan team and start his 150th grand prix. Only Gerhard Berger, with 187, can better that tally.

Brundle's contribution to the season so far has been confined to a spectacular somersault and roll, which made him a folk hero in Australia, and a sixth place in Brazil. He has failed to finish in five of the seven races so far and, no less than Hill, needs an impressive showing in Montreal to restore morale.

Brundle estimates that his Jordan Peugeot is ten seconds a lap quicker than the Tyrrell Ford he drove in his first race in Brazil in March, 1984, which is a measure of Brundle's adaptability as much as the march of technology. However, few would quibble if the Canadian Grand Prix's habit of producing quirky results brought a first victory for one of the sport's great survivors.

CROQUET: FIRST WOMAN INTERNATIONAL FOR 33 YEARS JOINS WORLD CUP QUEST

Britons aim to prosper in conflict of intellects

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

THERE are few sports born in Britain in which the national team remains pre-eminent. Time and again we have taught other nations our beautiful games only for them to return the favour by thrashing the pants off us. There are exceptions, however. This month a Great Britain team, led by a reigning world champion, is the strong favourite to retain its sport's equivalent of the World Cup. In croquet, we are Brazil, South Africa and Sri Lanka rolled into one.

Since New Zealand took the MacRobertson Shield home from these shores in 1986, Britain have triumphed twice, in New Zealand in 1990 and in Australia, by an embarrassingly wide margin, in 1993. The defence of the Shield begins against Australia in Nottingham today and finishes against New Zealand in Cheltenham on July 4, with what is expected to be the decisive encounter in the four-team round-robin tournament. The United States is the other team involved.

"The team is confident and we are definitely favourites," Chris Clarke, the captain and aforementioned world champion, said. In case there were any doubts about this apparently genteel activity's reputation for requiring a ruthless streak, he added: "Once we've clinched the match, we will be out to win convincingly."

One member of his six-strong squad, Debbie Cornelius, a 29-year-old accountant from Essex, is the first woman to represent Britain in an international since 1963, which is something of a surprise, as, on the face of it, there seems no reason why men

should outperform women at croquet.

"There isn't any reason at all, really," Cornelius said. "The game doesn't require much in the way of physical effort. There just haven't been many top lady players for a while — good players, yes, but not quite good enough." Until now, that is.

Her drive to become the best female player in the game developed some 13 years after she was introduced to it. "I started playing in the garden with my dad and elder brother when I was about six," she said. "Every year we used to go on holiday to a hotel where they played a tournament — not Association Croquet, a garden version, but still terribly competitive. When I was 19, I joined a club and started taking the game seriously."

Her potential was quickly recognised, and her ambitions were fired. "Not straight away, though," she said. "At that stage, I never suspected I'd be good enough to get in the Test team. But when I first entered a tournament where there were top-class players, they said: 'You should be aiming to be one of the best women players,' and that set me off."

She was dedicated enough to take a year off work in order to play in tournaments in New Zealand and Australia, and is now ranked among the top ten in the world. What were the attractions of a game that is a mystery to many?

"Anyone who likes logic puzzles, chess — anything like that — would love croquet. The problem in taking it up is that someone who is going to be good at it will pick up the



Going through the hoops: Cornelius has her eye on a World Cup triumph

tactics quicker than the ability to play the shots: frustrating, but if they can get through that barrier, most people find it a great game. It's intellectual as well as physical — high on concentration, and one bad shot can lose the match."

She recently returned from a sponsored tournament in California: an exception to the rule, even for leading croquet players. "On the whole, you pay for yourself. Sometimes, when you look at what top women golfers earn..." she said, with a wistful look as you would expect from an accountant considering lost money-making opportunities.

On the bright side, perhaps the lack of such big-time pressures reduces the risk of Jennifer Capriati-style burn-outs. "Sometimes people can't sustain it at the top, but others stay there for decades," Cornelius said. "I hope I'll be one of them."

Even in a sport that offers relative longevity, 29 seems a little old to be making an international debut, but she rebuts the suggestion. "It's quite young to be an international at croquet: we've got the youngest team ever — the oldest player is in his mid-30s. I'm looking forward to it. We've been having squad

meetings over the winter to build team confidence — although, even in doubles, when it's your shot you're very much out there on your own."

Chris Clarke has every faith in Cornelius's likely contribution to the cause. "She is top-ranked, and has beaten every other member of the team in matches at some stage," he said. "You can't ask more from a player than that: in effect, she was automatically on the team. She's had a great year and she's a very good player — single-minded, and also talented. It's good to be going into the tournament with so many strong players."

Conservative estimate of cricket's lasting appeal

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

A glorious treasure-house of names and numbers comes to me from *The Cricket Statistician*, the journal, you will be unsurprised to learn, of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians. It is a list of every Member of the House of Commons since 1800 who has played first-class cricket. There are 140 of them.

These include three Whigs and 29 Liberals, mostly nineteenth-century ones. There are three Unionists. There are but two men of Labour. One of them you may well guess, the other is a mite obscure. The first is Sam Silkin, Attorney-General 1974-79. He played for Cambridge University and Glamorgan. The second is Sir F. M. Mason Macfarlane, MP for Paddington 1924-25. He played for a team called Europeans in India.

All the rest are Conservatives. What does this mean? And who was it that said first-class cricket is the Conservative Party at play? Me, actually.

Out for the count

The Football Association of Ghana smelt a rat after Frankobaa and Nayam Stars had played the final match of their season. The result, a victory for Nayam, meant that the club was promoted to the country's first division on goal difference. The victory, however, was not quite as convincing as Nayam Stars had hoped. Both clubs have been punished by the docking of three points, which pulls Nayam back down to the second division again. How was the FA so sure that there had been some funny business? The final score was Frankobaa 0 Nayam Stars 22. Each club was fined £37.

Schott down

This looks to be the end of this column as we know it. Marge Schott, owner of the Cincinnati Reds, has given up day-to-day control of her team and promised to give no more interviews. Schott, old friend of this column, reached her latest bout of trouble after telling us that Hitler was not a bad chap really, only a mite overzealous. That at last has allowed her fellow owners to be rid of this turbulent woman, though she retains her shares in the team. Pete Rose, a legendary baseball figure, said: "Her comments are not really racial. She doesn't like anybody." But it is a sad day: I really don't know what I'll do for stories now.

Dead silence

Well, there's still Diego. I am sure all of us are still in mourning for the Argentina football side that recently went to Ecuador to play a World Cup preliminary-round match and, sad to say, lost 2-0. Diego was working as a television commentator and enthusiastically began his stint by describing the Ecuador players as "dead-beats". He was overheard, as he left the ground afterwards, he was showered with missiles, bags of water and insults; when he left the

Fastino Asprilla were tortured. Final score: Peru 1 Colombia 1.

Extracurricular

Prep school cricket: I have a scorecard, a quotidian one by schoolboy standards, on which St Paul's scored 99 and then bowled out Northbridge for nine. One of Northbridge's three extras was given, my informant says, "for too much chatter in the short leg cordon when J Edwards was bowling his hat-trick ball". Test match umpires please note.

Striking out

George Mitchell, the former United States senator, was all set to take over as commissioner of baseball. It was suggested that he retired from the Senate because the position — known as "the best job in the United States" — was opening up before him. The problems of baseball are many, however, and all of them insurmountable. Mitchell has been forced to drop out. He has accepted what looks a far easier assignment. He is chairing the meetings of the Irish peace talks.

Naked truth

And now for a story about sex. No it's not about sex. It's about tasteful nudity, quite a different matter. The row has come up in Australia, where they take an equivocal view of modern life. Pictures of naked athletes have appeared in a serious photographic magazine called *Black and White*. These images were passed on to a more populist publication called *WHO Weekly*. It created such a stink that the magazine was withdrawn from sale. There were images of 31 naked athletes in *Black and White* and *WHO Weekly* used four of these images on its cover. "We chose to withdraw the magazine," a spokesman said, "on the grounds that it's not the sort of thing you like to see in a supermarket."



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SAILING: BRITON PUTS NEW BOAT THROUGH ITS PACES IN DEMANDING TEST OF ENDURANCE

Goss going for broke in transatlantic race

By EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

FOR around 18 days starting tomorrow, Pete Goss will have the chance to stop worrying about how he is going to pay off his £90,000 overdraft, or how he is going to find another sponsor to help him to do it, when he sets off with 58 other single-handers on the *Europe 1* Star transatlantic race.

The race, which starts in Plymouth Sound and ends at Newport, Rhode Island, is the first real test of Goss's new Adrian Thompson-designed 50-footer, *Aqua Quorum*, which, with swing-keel and dagger boards, at-

tempts to combine the technology of mono and multihull design in what should be a light, downwind flyer.

However, the race is likely to be an extremely unpleasant uphill sprint for Goss. It is not the ideal event for *Aqua Quorum*, but it will serve as a useful shake-down for him and the boat, which only emerged from the Plymouth shed in which it was built in April. On recent test sails, the yacht has shown tremendous speed off the wind, reaching 16½ knots on a beam reach in just 20 knots of breeze.

The real focus for Goss, 34, a former Royal Marine, remains the Vendée Globe non-stop single-handed round-

the-world race, starting from France in November, when he hopes to show that an optimally sailed 50-footer can beat less easily managed 60-footers over a long course.

"I haven't sailed her single-handed properly yet," Goss said as he made last-minute preparations. "So this will be the first proper sail. She feels great and I'm looking for a good result, but I am not going to bend the boat for this race. The main thrust of what I'm doing is the Vendée and this is one of the steps to it."

Another competitor using the race to prepare for the Vendée is the German Wolfgang Quix, in *Wolfie's Toy*.

Although not starting in the Vendée, Giovanni Soldini's *Telecom Italia*, sporting a new mast and keel, will also offer a useful form guide for Goss in the 50-foot class.

The favourites for line honours come from the class one 60-footers, where the big trimarans will battle it out, led by Mike Birch, of Canada, in *Biscuits La Trinitaine*, Laurent Bourgnon, of France, in *Primagaz*, and the defending champion from 1992, Loick Peyron, of France, in *Fujiolor II*. There are 14 British entrants who, in addition to Goss, from Torpoint in Devon, include Josh Hall, on *Gartmore Investment Managers*.

Will Rangers' favourite son crumble against the Tartan Army? Ask Graeme Le Saux on MSN.

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FOOTBALL: SUCCESS HARDENS RESPECT FOR MANAGER HAPPY TO ADOPT SOFTLY SOFTLY APPROACH

Scots thrive under Brown's influence

By Kevin McCarron

"IF YOU win, you'll be a hero," a well-wisher said to Craig Brown yesterday. "If I lose, I'll be the other thing," the Scotland manager replied, recognising that defeat by England can turn a man into a pariah.

Brown's emotions always remain on the same even pitch, but the lack of eruptions and tirades also means that he can go unnoticed. Viewers in England may hardly have heard of him at all until he appeared on television screens this week, exchanging badinage with Des Lynam while revealing nothing whatsoever. In his own country, too, there is an absence of awe where Brown is concerned. The folklore of Scottish football has more often been peopled by figures such as Jock Stein, who were worshipped and feared as if they were pagan deities.



It is Brown, however, who could yet insist on a prominent place in the history of the game, as the first Scotland manager to take the national team past the opening round of a significant tournament. With good humour and an utter absence of histrionics, he is compelling critics to accept that it is his methods that are required by the sport in its modern form.

Some are infuriated by the quasi-academic milieu of seminars and coaching courses in which Brown, 54, is at ease and, given his former career as a college lecturer, he does conform to a stereotype. To bind him in that cliché, however, requires critics to ignore the rest of his life.

Brown's experience of football has been as gritty and bruising as might be imagined. He was a gifted youngster on Rangers' books, but a knee injury suffered as a teenager limited, and eventually brought to a premature end, his career with Dundee and Falkirk. There was little swank or ease in the game for this left half.

He still gets referred to as 'Beeper', a nickname earned by clearances that were supposed to take the ball into orbit, where it would join *sputniks* and other communication satellites of the early 1960s. Glamour was just as elusive when he was the part-time manager of Clyde and struggled to balance books while building teams.

He was effective, even if the



Brown, having broken the Jock Stein mould, will eclipse all his predecessors if Scotland can qualify for the quarter-finals of Euro 96

audience did not always agree. "I went to a supporters' night and half of them were cheering and half were booing," he likes to say. "The problem was that the half that were cheering were cheering the half that were booing." In such a manner is discomfort turned into anecdote.

Brown genuinely seems unflustered by even the most

severe castigation. A journalist once told him that only 13 per cent of people in a poll wanted him as Scotland manager. "How many did Alex Ferguson get?" Brown inquired, smoothly. The answer was 77 per cent. "So," Brown said, "there's 73 per cent don't want a man who has achieved as much as he has, either. I'm not doing so badly, am I?"

Brown cannot offer novelty. Having become Andy Roxburgh's assistant in 1986, before taking up the manager's position in 1993, the sight of Brown with a Scotland side is familiar. Yet, if results alone ensured respect, he would be held in high esteem. Brown has taken Scotland to this European championship with a squad whose limited abilities

are universally recognised.

In the qualifying matches he generally had to cobble together teams weakened by withdrawals, but Scotland still obtained astonishing results, such as the goalless draw in Moscow. While the idea of delivering a ringing dressing-room declamation is alien to him, his preference for

detailed preparation has been justified.

Brown did banish Richard Gough from the squad after the Rangers captain had criticised him and Roxburgh, an engaging manner does not disguise a ruthless streak. He has simply made a decision he viewed as essential. The manager is sustained by his own calmness.

Although the exceedingly shrewd Brown understands the complexities and pressures of his position, he usually remains composed, even in defeat. Jokes, conversation and company appeal to this genial man, but there is a pensive side to his character that is tapped in Scotland's cause. One evening, he went many miles out of his way to give a journalist a lift home. "I love driving at night and just thinking and talking," Brown explained.

The amiability need not prevent him from being intransigent when occasion demands. There were hints yesterday that three forwards — Ally McCoist, Gordon Durie and John Spencer — could be deployed at Wembley this afternoon. Brown, though, may have been bluffing. The ability to conjure ambiguities from Scotland's meagre means is just one more indication of Brown's resourcefulness.

Couto blows whistle on noisy red sea

THE noise was deafening. Curse the whistles, sold by some enterprising Nottingham trader for £1 a pea: curse the authorities, who allowed so many people to gather so early in the midday sun. The object of their desire was hours away, yet the Turks were in their usual ebullient mood.

Driving per chance past the City Ground yesterday afternoon and you happened upon Istanbul-on-Trent. Wave after wave of red, broken only by a white crescent-shaped moon and star, blanketed the streets of West Bridgford. And so it continued. Outside the ground and then inside: in the corridors and in the alleyways; in the stands and the seats, too. Whistling and more whistling; cheers when Turkey were in possession, jeers when they were not. Cat-calling, obscure chanting, an assault on the eardrums.

You almost wanted Turkey to fail, yet they played with passion and pride.

Russell Kempson survives an ear-bashing from Turkish supporters at the City Ground

Half-an-hour before kick-off, Ertugral, their team-mate, had left for home after the death of his sister. It had affected everybody, said a team spokesman, but they would play on. They did, with an urgency that mocked their 100-1 odds.

Endeavour and enthusiasm is not enough, though. Urged on by the rasping throats, Saffet broke through the Portugal ranks three times: three times, he beat the air in frustration. Even Hakan, once of Torino, now of Galatasaray, was unable to capitalise on so much lung-power from the stands. When a chance fell to him, he volleyed wide.

Yet while Portugal flitted so fitfully,

there was still hope. Their supporters among the 22,670, bedecked in red and green, were vocal and emotional, too. They lacked only numbers.

Portugal's players possess exotic names and, occasionally, produce exotic football. It does not flow, though, when they are pushed back or agitated into losing control. Such pressure made for seven bookings — three Portuguese, four Turks — and scarred the contest.

Turkey's gnawing tactics were to prove effective until the 66th minute, when Couto thumped in a left-foot drive. Cue celebratory somersault. In an instant, the noise faded to manageable proportions. Still a few shrill notes, plus the lonely beat of a solitary drum, but the senses were no longer numbed. A belated Turkey charge ended in nothing. Then the final whistle, the acceptable one. Bliss.

Match report, page 55

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Match report, page 55

Cavalry may be too late to save demoralised Paris

By Christopher Irvine

PARIS Saint-Germain kicked off the Super League with an historic defeat of Sheffield Eagles. The memory of that heady night only 11 weeks ago, has faded to the point where the newcomers are battling to

survive at the start of the season's second half.

The return fixture tonight at Don Valley Stadium comes after a run of seven defeats for a demoralised Paris side, the majority of whom represented France in the country's second worst defeat, the 73-6 midweek

hammering by England in the European championship.

Only half of Paris' promised cavalry has arrived in time. Phil Sheard, a New Zealander, makes his debut in the pack, and Wilfrid Mouligne, a rugby union recruit, starts on the wing.

However, the team's inexorable slide will receive no sympathy from Sheffield.

Paris are now over the dual commitments of the French domestic season and European championship, in which Wales and England are left to contest the title in Cardiff on June 26, but it is difficult to see where they will pick up more points. After three consecutive defeats themselves, Sheffield are eager to restore their challenge for a top-four finish.

Although he has Greg Barwick and Gavin Allen available after injury, Tony Currie, the London Broncos coach, is refusing to tinker with the side that drew 18-18 at

Wigan for Halifax's visit to The Valley, Charlton, tomorrow night. "I don't think London quite knows what a good team we've got," Currie said.

The attempt to persuade Steve Ojomoh to join the Broncos from Bath, in a permanent switch of codes, is being pursued more vigorously than other England rugby union internationals, whose names have generally been banded about to engender publicity. Ojomoh is expected at the game for a continuation of negotiations.

It is by no means impossible that Bradford could steal in for the title. St Helens and Wigan both go to Odsal on

consecutive Fridays at the start of next month. Tomorrow an unchanged Bulls side seek to extend a winning sequence to seven matches at Castleford, where they have won only once in 13 league visits since 1983.

St Helens, three-point leaders, and Wigan both face struggling opposition at home in Workington and Oldham respectively. Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens scrum half, is still doubtful while Wigan are without Henry Paul and Kris Radlinski. Andrew Farrell and Mick Cassidy, who both missed the England match, are expected to be fit.

League rejects Howes appeal

THE Rugby Football League (RFL) is standing firm in the face of protests by several Super League clubs that they must release overseas players selected to appear in the first Oceania Cup from July 3-17 (Christopher Irvine writes).

A tournament designed to stimulate international competition among the emerging South Pacific nations will have damaging consequences for Halifax, whose entire for-

eign legion of four Western Samoans and a Tongan could miss up to three matches.

Halifax might not be the only club to seek postponements, which would throw the Super League programme into end-of-term chaos. Warrington also have five players eligible for call-ups. Wigan will lose Va'aiga Tuigamala and Shem Tuipulu, and St Helens their fellow Samoans, Apollo Perelini and Vila Matautia.

The RFL yesterday rejected an appeal for a rethink from David Howes, the St Helens chief executive. "We accept international competition is the flagship for expansion, but it should be played at the end of the season," Howes said. "Super League should be protected in its inaugural season."

In addition, Salford, the first division leaders, have been instructed to release Sam Panapa (Samoa) and Ali Davys (Cook Islands) and Tonga have selected Jimmy

Veikoso, of Leigh, and Willie Wolfram, of Swinton, both second division sides.

The RFL warned clubs that if players are not made available, they would be in breach of the game's by-laws. The Oceania Cup is recognised by the new Super League International Board. "The only way to ensure countries such as Western Samoa and Fiji, will ever become equal to Australia and Great Britain, is to allow them to play their full-strength teams on regular occasions," Maurice Lindsay, said.

Following a recommendation that South Wales be "fast-tracked" into the Super League next season, the RFL board has told Hull and Hull Kingston Rovers that it wants a decision by the Rugby League council, on July 3, on whether a merged club can take up the offer of a further vacancy in an expanded elite. Both Hull clubs are less reluctant than they were about an amalgamation.

McCarthy back on touchline after reprieve

By Our Sports Staff

MICK MCCARTHY, the Ireland manager, has been given a last-minute reprieve from a one-match touchline ban, allowing him to take his place in the dugout for his team's final US Cup match, against Bolivia today.

McCarthy will return to the Giants Stadium in New Jersey, where he was shown the red card during the 2-2 draw with Mexico on Wednesday for throwing the ball into the crowd to deny the opposition a quick free kick. Ireland, however, will still be without Liam Daish and Niall Quinn, who were also dismissed against Mexico.

Curtis Fleming, the Middlesbrough full back, is looking forward to the match more than most. He has waited a long time for international recognition, but in the past ten weeks has accumulated seven senior caps.

The Dubliner, 27, has McCarthy to thank for his sudden rise, plus the fact that so many Ireland players opted out of the hectic six-match end-of-season schedule.

"Denis Irwin, Steve Staunton, Gary Kelly and Terry Phelan were always ahead of me in the pecking order, but I've always kept hoping I would one day play for my country," Fleming said.

After the trouble in the draw against Mexico, Fleming and his team-mates must now contend with temperatures of around 90F. With Kenna an absentee because of a hamstring injury, McCarthy's problems have not been helped by the fact that the rapidly emerging Watford striker, David Connolly, is also banned.

McCarthy will not name his squad until later today, but the indications are that the veteran Celtic goalkeeper, Packie Bonner, 36, will win his eighth cap.

Dave Merrington has had his contract terminated by Southampton, less than a month after masterminding the club's escape from relegation from the FA Carling Premiership.

Merrington was surprisingly promoted from youth-team coach to manager after Alan Ball walked out to join Manchester City last summer. However, he has paid the price for Southampton winning just nine of 38 league games last season. "To say it's a great shock is a massive understatement," he said.

Martin O'Neill, the Leicester City manager, will be handed £7 million to boost the club's Premiership campaign after Martin George, the chairman, relinquished control of the newly-promoted club.

IN BRIEF

Sabatini unlikely to be at Wimbledon

GABRIELA SABATINI will not play at the Wimbledon tennis championships this month because of a chronic stomach muscle problem, the *Clarín* newspaper reported in Buenos Aires yesterday. Sabatini, who lost the 1991 Wimbledon final to Steffi Graf, has also missed the Fed Cup, the Italian Open and the French Open this season because of the same injury.

Clarín said it had received confirmation from the WTA Tour that Sabatini had sent a fax explaining her withdrawal. Sabatini has played in the past ten Wimbledon tournaments and has lost in the semi-finals three times, including as a 16-year-old in 1986.

Two Step fit

Equestrianism: Michael Whitaker underlined the return to fitness of his Olympic contender, Two Step, when he completed a clear round in the Luxembourg Nations Cup yesterday to help Britain into joint third place with Switzerland. It was Two Step's first Nations Cup since injuring his back at the Bordeaux Show in France in December. Whitaker is confident that the horse will now be fit for Atlanta.

LUXEMBOURG NATIONS CUP: 1. Holland, 2. Belgium, 3. equal, Great Britain and Switzerland. British team results: Sabatini (N. Skelton) 12 and 4. Orville (P. Smith) 4 and 0. Grapusch (J. Whitaker) 4 and 4. Two Step (M. Whitaker) 0 and NP.

Henman returns

Tennis: Tim Henman returns to Britain's Davis Cup team for the Euro Africa zone group two tie against Ghana in Accra from July 12 to 14. The British No 1 from Oxfordshire missed the 4-1 victory over Slovenia in Newcastle last month after going down with a virus contracted in Asia.

TEAM: T. Henman (Oxfordshire), G. Rusedski (Lancashire), M. Pechey (Essex), N. Broad (unattached). To travel: N. Gould (Worcester).

Gasperoni's day

Cycling: Cristian Gasperoni, of Italy, won the fourth stage of the Tour of Switzerland yesterday while Armin Meier, the Swiss rider, strengthened his overall lead. Gasperoni covered the 199-kilometre stage from Bienne to Bussigny in 4hr 30min 55sec, finishing 39 seconds ahead of his Scigiano Blue team-mate, Fabrizio Guidi.

Melbourne's bid

Athletics: Melbourne yesterday announced its intention to bid for the 2006 Commonwealth Games. Adelaide has twice bid and failed but Brisbane and Perth had hosted the Games in 1982 and 1982 respectively.

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EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

5/6 ENGLAND 9/5 DRAW SCOTLAND 7/2
Wembley, Kick-off 3.00pm, Live at William Hill.

FIRST GOALSCORER

5/1 SHEARER (E) 12/1 MCALLISTER (S)
9/1 DURIE (S) 16/1 MCNAMAMAN (E)
10/1 GASCOIGNE (E) 33/1 MCCALL (S)

Other players on request.

CORRECT SCORE

5/1 ENGLAND 1-0 5/1 DRAW 1-1
13/2 ENGLAND 2-0 8/1 SCOTLAND 1-0
9/2 DRAW 0-0 16/1 SCOTLAND 2-0

Other players on request.

1st G'SCORER/CORRECT SCORE DOUBLE

SHEARER TO SCORE 1st AND ENGLAND WIN 3-1 45/1
ADAMS TO SCORE 1st AND ENGLAND WIN 2-0 130/1
HENRY TO SCORE 1st AND SCOTLAND WIN 2-1 275/1

Other players and scores on request.

11/8 FRANCE 9/5 DRAW SPAIN 15/8
Etand Road, Kick-off 8.00pm, Live at William Hill.

FIRST GOALSCORER

11/2 DJORKAEFF (F) 12/1 CANNIERO (S)
8/1 SALINAS (S) 25/1 DESCHAMPS (F)
8/1 ZIDANE (F) 33/1 AMOR (S)

Other players on request.

CORRECT SCORE

11/2 FRANCE 1-0 18/1 DRAW 2-2
9/1 FRANCE 2-0 10/1 SPAIN 2-1
9/2 DRAW 0-0 28/1 SPAIN 3-1

Other prices on request.

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EURO 96

DAILY TEAM-BY-TEAM GUIDE

GROUP A

ENGLAND

Robbie Fowler, Steve McManaman and Jamie Redknapp spent 15 minutes chatting with their former Liverpool teammate, Ian Molloy, after training yesterday. Molloy, who is working for Danish television at Euro 96, has never been noted for his abstinence from alcohol and could be heard pouring forth on the worthlessness of any criticism England players may have had for indulging in the occasional beer. Terry Venables gave Molloy a wary smile as he wandered past. On the training pitch, it was Alan Shearer who seemed to be seeing double, though. As Redknapp, Stuart Pearce and Co tried to curl free kicks over a wall of five life-sized cardboard cut-outs, Shearer smacked almost every one into the midriff of the the unfortunate dummy standing second from the right. Then the reasoning for his apparent ineptitude became clear. "He's imagining it's Colin Hendry," someone said.

CAUTIONS: Adams, G. Neville

OH

GROUP B

SPAIN

Spain are unbeaten in 17 matches, but they recognise that the French today offer the most thorough examination of their durability so far. Every Spanish player has talked about the formidable qualities of their opponents, everyone, that is, apart from Andoni Zubizarreta, the veteran goalkeeper. "Zubi" is the Victor Meldrew of the Spanish squad. He is the only one to complain about the press being allowed to stay in the team hotel and the only one to complain about the English weather. Naturally enough, he doesn't like the French. "They are nothing special," he said. Javier Clemente, the coach, has made wholesale changes for the game with France. Unhappy with his side's performance down the right flank, he brings in Alfonso for the suspended Pizzi, Amavisca for Guerrero, Donato, the Brazilian, for Amor, and, possibly, Chero for the right back, Belsue. CAUTIONS: Camero, Sergi, Amor, Abaitard

DM

GROUP C

GERMANY

At last some cracks in the German togetherness. Mario Basler voiced some indiscreet comments on German television on Thursday, suggesting that Thomas Hässler looked tired and that he (Basler) had not had his ankle operation to sit on the bench. "He is a very ambitious man, but I've had a word with him," Berti Vogts, the manager, said. But the story about the Germans scandalising the hotel by going to the sauna sans swimsuits just provoked laughter. "We hadn't realised it was customary to wear swimsuits in the sauna," Vogts said. "But then customs vary — in China you wear nothing, in Finland a glass of Schnapps, in Russia, a woolly hat and socks. Perhaps in our guide for the tournament in future we will have to put in the sauna customs." Mehmet Scholl returned from Munich yesterday after going back to Germany to see his wife, who is eight months pregnant. Reports of a premature labour were unfounded. CAUTIONS: Reuter, Hässler, Möller, Kuntz, Babel, Zige

PB

GROUP D

DENMARK

On top of everything else, Richard Moeller Nielsen has cinematic pressure. There is concern in Denmark that the coach's tactics are far too "art-house". What they want in Copenhagen is a mainstream big screen all-action movie. Around 15,000 Danes will pack into the Tivoli Gardens in the capital tomorrow where a giant screen has been erected for all of Denmark's Euro 96 matches. The audience wants Nielsen to field two out-and-out forwards against Croatia and a more attack-minded midfield. The mood after the Danes' 1-1 draw with Portugal was guardedly positive but any nerves in Copenhagen were settled after they all tuned into Turkey-Croatia. "There's a lot more optimism now," a Danish FA spokeswoman said. The already impressive ranks of Danish supporters will be swelled even further for the match tomorrow with as many as 15,000 Scandinavians expected at Hillsborough. CAUTIONS: Risager, Helveg

AR

SWITZERLAND

What a merry dance Artur Jorge, the Switzerland coach, is leading the Swiss press pack. No way would he play three forwards against Holland at Villa Park — "most coaches would regard that as stupid," he said. In his pre-match summary — and yet, come the kick-off, Stephane Chapuisat was brought in alongside Grassi and Türkyilmaz up front. Hints were dropped, too, that the returning Marc Hotliger, of Everton, would replace Sebastien Jeanneret, the apprentice clock-maker. Instead, Alain Geiger, the Swiss captain, was the one who was told that his services were not required. Chapuisat's appearance pleased the supporters, who have long since awarded him folk-hero status, but his theatrics against Holland left many neutrals less happy. Twice he fell to the ground, when barely touched by the challenge, but only once did he fool Ouzounov, the Bulgarian referee. CAUTIONS: Grassi (2), Vogel, Quentin, Vega, Jeanneret, Chapuisat, Türkyilmaz

RK

BULGARIA

Their organisation on the pitch is commendable, but it is a different story off it. Bulgaria are moving to their fourth hotel of this championship, after discovering that the Cleveland Industrial heartland rates below even Scarborough in terms of entertainment. At least there is bingo on the seafront. The latest move was prompted by a row with Uefa, predictably over money. Bulgaria were to go from Stockton to Newton Aycliffe, and train in Durham. The drawback was the £100-per-day fee, which Uefa refused to pay because they had already stumped up for the Scarborough training camp. Now the Bulgarians are moving instead to Seaton Burn, six miles out of Newcastle, and will train on the local school pitch, for free. The snag is that the goalposts are under-11 size, and so a set has had to be borrowed from Newcastle United. Stoichkov on a school pitch, it takes some imagining. CAUTIONS: Kischishev (2), Tzevanov (2), Stoichkov

DM

CZECH REPUBLIC

The staff at the Preston Marriott Hotel have all fallen for their Czech guests — all, that is, except the groundsman. "The players are very amiable, very relaxed. They are the neatest footballers ever to stay in my hotel," Paul le Roi, the general manager, said, "but they will insist on using the main lawn. They say it's better than the football pitches in the Czech Republic." The groundsman could be heard groaning yesterday as, having promised to use the manicured lawn for stretching only with one ball, the players took out 14 balls and all disappeared into the rhododendron bushes. Mr le Roi decided to bite his tongue. "I don't want to say anything on match day. They are obviously very focused," he said. In any case, Mr le Roi is preoccupied with the 3,000 sausages that the Czechs brought with them. "I don't know what they're for," he added. CAUTIONS: Kadlec, Drulak, Babji, Nedved

AR

PORTUGAL

Press conferences may not be a good guide to national character — although the Germans are models of efficiency, the English surely, the Russians mykling — but they are proving a reliable reflection of the styles of each team's operation. Antonio Oliveira, the Portugal manager, could be an Oxford professor conducting a seminar, with only a white noticeboard advertising the team's sponsors spoiling the image. Oliveira addresses every question seriously and at length. But his words are proving a bit too much for the English translator, who, on occasions, reduces a five-minute reply to a sentence or two. But then, even some members of the Portuguese media find following Oliveira a difficult matter. "It's half football-speak, and half philosophy. No wonder she can't understand him," one journalist said ruefully. CAUTIONS: Paurinho Santos (2), Osorio, Sa Pinto, João Pinto, Paulo Sousa, Figo, Tavaras

PB

HOLLAND

It must rank as one of the boldest substitutions in a leading tournament. After only 26 minutes of the game against Switzerland at Villa Park on Thursday, and with the Swiss gradually growing in stature, Guus Hiddink, the Holland coach, replaced Clarence Seedorf, his cultured central defender. Seedorf had already been booked once and should have had another, leading to his expulsion, for a grossly late tackle on Kubiley Türkyilmaz. It was increasingly apparent that he would probably walk, more by accident than design, yet by pre-empting the issue and bringing on Johan de Kock, the part-time road engineer, Hiddink was courting calamity. Fortune favoured the brave. De Kock, inexperienced at this level, coped admirably, with goals from Jordi and Bergkamp doing the rest. "It was a critical decision," Hiddink said, "but we could not afford Clarence getting sent off. Another foul and the referee might have had to do that." CAUTIONS: Witschge, Taument, Seedorf

RK

ROMANIA

Romania may be out of the running but they are due back in the North East — or at least seven of them should be — on July 24. Richard Ord, the Sunderland centre half, is having a testimonial against Steaua Bucharest, seven of whose players have played in Euro 96. The lucky seven can, therefore, renew acquaintances made during their stay at Redworth Hall, near Darlington. Romania will work out at The Shay, home of Halifax Town, until after the game against Spain at Elland Road on Tuesday, when they will fly straight back to Bucharest with coach Anghel Iordanescu's job in jeopardy. Whatever the future holds, the Romania coach at least enjoys the goodwill of the people of Darlington, who after being voted some of the most unattractive in England in a recent survey, had their self-esteem significantly bolstered by multiple compliments from Iordanescu and his squad. CAUTIONS: Mihai, Selmes, Ite

LT

ITALY

It is emerging that a number of hotels rejected applications from Italy for bed and breakfast during Euro 96. Their demands were, it seems, just too detailed and inflexible — which reflects the team on the pitch. There are no doubts about the fitness of any of the Italian players, for example. Casiraghi came off (against Russia) because he had cramp in both legs and I knew at that moment that he would not play in the next match," Arrigo Sacchi, the coach, said after replacing the Lazio forward with Ravanelli last night. Italy's offside trap, too, is meticulous but necessarily vulnerable because it requires perfection from the linesmen. "I think the linesmen against Russia were very good and I hope they will be just as good against the Czech Republic," Sacchi said in response to the Czech prediction that Italy's offside could be breached. Sacchi can leave Viali behind and drop his leading goalscorer, but he cannot run the line. CAUTIONS: Albertini, Donatoni

AR

TURKEY

Turkey leave the Nottingham area on Monday, after two matches at the City Ground, and they will be missed, as will their fanatical followers. "They've behaved like lambs, they've been great," a spokesman for Nottingham City Council said yesterday. An estimated 22,000 Turks have visited the city but there have been only three arrests, one for ticket touting. Anybody who attended a recent Turkey press conference was presented with a Türkiye team shirt, further cementing relationships, and the council was planning a farewell party to send the squad on its way to Sheffield, where they will play Denmark in their final game on Wednesday. Etugrul, the Besiktas forward, will not be with them. He had to return home yesterday after he received news that his sister had died. "It is very sad," a team spokesman said. "It affects everyone but we have to try to keep morale high." CAUTIONS: Tolunay (2), Abdullah, Vedat, Rahim

RK

SCOTLAND

A potential double agent was yesterday detected in Scotland's midst. Their goalkeeper coach, Alan Hodgkinson, was between the posts for England in the victory over Scotland at Wembley in 1957. However, in addition to denying divided loyalties, he also refused to concede that he is English. "It even says 'Yorkshireman' on my passport," Hodgkinson claimed. No matter the outcome this afternoon, one triumph is already sure to be celebrated. The Scottish journalists' 3-2 victory over the English hacks on Wednesday will go down in history. The winners presented their trophy to Jim Farry, chief executive of the SFA, and he will submit it for inclusion in the planned museum of Scottish football. Farry observed with mock severity that the game had not been officially sanctioned, but, in view of the result, he has decided to turn a blind eye to the offence. CAUTIONS: Boyd, Gallacher

KM

FRANCE

Manchester United consider him the best defender on the Continent, but even the Sky Television millions could not persuade Laurent Blanc to turn his back on Spanish sunshine for the sordid canopy of Manchester. Blanc confirmed that United had courted him, but Barcelona had more to offer. The word is that Alex Ferguson, the United manager, placed him far ahead of any other defender on his summer shopping list, but even the Cantona connection failed to deliver. "I think the Spanish atmosphere will suit me. Manchester are a very good team, but maybe I am more suited to Spain," he said. Blanc is the only doubt for the engrossing contest today against Spain. He has a knee problem, but such is his importance to the French that they will wait until the last possible minute to ensure his availability. Blanc is likely to play in a side unchanged from the one that beat Romania. CAUTIONS: di Meo

DM

RUSSIA

The Russians changed tack yesterday: they held a press conference. The trouble was that hardly anyone turned up, and the main item of news for those who did was the second-hand story that Bushmanov has returned home. That leaves Russia with something of a problem. Throughout qualifying for Euro 96, they relied on a past and present Spartak Moscow back four. Against Italy, the only one playing was Onopko, now of Oviedo. That perhaps accounted for the lack of understanding, particularly after Bushmanov went off. The return of Nikiforov should help, but whether he will form his club partnership with Onopko in defence remains questionable. They could move Tetradze, who plays sweeper for Vladikavkaz, into his club position, releasing Onopko to play as the holding player in midfield. But one thing seems certain: after his performance as substitute, Kiriaikov will start in one of the forward positions. CAUTIONS: Onopko, Kolyanov, Kovtun

PB

CROATIA

Croatia's public relations gurus — Miroslav Rade and Mladen Petrek — continue to woo all and sundry in the re-born county of Rutland, where the squad is based. Consequently, the Croatians have been featured regularly in the local newspaper, the Rutland Times, amid an assortment of rather racist and strange-but-true stories. "French Style Law Plan Bid To Beat Uppingham Late Night Nuisance" read the headline on one page. "Safes Sex Could Block Your Drains" screamed another. More curious still was an article on an Audi 90 that was broken into in nearby Uppingham, where, apparently, all the action is. The thief stole some hand-tools... and also the laundry. In contrast, the squad's feelings towards the Croatian media have swiftly deteriorated since the 1-0 win over Turkey. Apparently, the match reports were so scathing back home that the players have now blanked the offending hacks. CAUTIONS: Asanovic, Boban, Soldo

RK

REPORTS: Oliver Holt, Kevin McCarr, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Alyson Rudd, David Maddock and Louise Taylor

MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE

GROUP A

England 1 Switzerland 1
Shearer (23) Türkyilmaz (83 pen)
(Wembley, attendance 76,567)

Holland 0 Scotland 0
(Villa Park, attendance 34,363)

Switzerland 0 Holland 2
Jordi (65) Bergkamp (78)
(Villa Park, attendance 36,800)

Today
England v Scotland
(Wembley, 3.0) BBC1

Tues June 18
Scotland v Switzerland
(Villa Park, 7.30)

England v Holland
(Wembley, 7.30)

GROUP B

Spain 1 Bulgaria 1
Alfonso (73) Stoichkov (65 pen)
(Elland Road, attendance 26,006)

Romania 0 France 1
Dugary (24)
(St James' Park, attendance 26,323)

Bulgaria 1 Romania 0
Stoichkov (3)
(St James' Park, attendance 19,107)

Today
France v Spain (Elland Road, 6.0) ITV

Tues June 18
France v Bulgaria
(St James' Park, 4.30)

Romania v Spain
(Elland Road, 4.30)

GROUP C

Germany 2 Czech Republic 0
Ziege (25) Möller (31)
(Old Trafford, attendance 37,300)

Italy 2 Russia 1
Casiraghi (5, 52) Tsymbalar (20)
(Anfield, attendance 35,120)

Not including last night's match
Czech Republic v Italy (Anfield)

Tomorrow
Russia v Germany
(Old Trafford, 3.0) ITV

Wed June 19
Italy v Germany
(Old Trafford, 7.30)

Russia v Czech Republic
(Anfield, 7.30)

GROUP D

Denmark 1 Portugal 1
B Laudrup (21) Sa Pinto (52)
(Hillsborough, attendance 34,993)

Turkey 0 Croatia 1
Vlaovic (85)
(City Ground, attendance 22,460)

Portugal 1 Turkey 0
Couto (86)
(City Ground, attendance 22,670)

Tomorrow
Croatia v Denmark
(Hillsborough, 6.0) BBC1

Wed June 19
Croatia v Portugal
(City Ground, 4.30)

Turkey v Denmark (Hillsborough, 4.30)

P W D L F A Pts

Holland 2 1 0 2 0 4

England 1 0 1 0 1 1

Scotland 1 0 1 0 0 1

Switzerland 2 0 1 1 3 1

P W D L F A Pts

Bulgaria 2 1 1 0 2 1 4

France 1 1 0 0 1 3

Spain 1 0 1 0 1 1

Romania 2 0 0 2 0 2

P W D L F A Pts

Germany 1 1 0 0 2 0 3

Italy 1 1 0 0 2 1 3

Russia 1 0 0 1 1 2 0

Czech Rep 1 0 0 1 0 2 0

P W D L F A Pts

Portugal 2 1 1 0 2 1 4

Croatia 1 1 0 0 1 0 3

Denmark 1 0 1 0 1 1 1

Turkey 2 0 0 2 0 2 0

Qualification of teams that finish level on points at the end of the group stage will be determined first by results between the respective teams, then by goal difference, then by goals scored, then by a Uefa coefficient of qualifying performances for the 1984 World Cup and the European championships of 1982 and 1986, then by disciplinary records and as a last resort, by drawing lots

QUARTER-FINALS

Sat June 22 Winners Group B v Runners-up Group A (Anfield, 6.30)

Sun June 23 Winners Group C v Runners-up Group D (Old Trafford, 3.0)

Sat June 22 Runners-up Group B v Winners Group A (Wembley, 3.0)

Sun June 23 Runners-up Group C v Winners Group D (Villa Park, 6.30)

SEMI-FINALS

Wed June 26 Villa Park winners v Anfield winners (Old Trafford, 4.0)

Wed June 26 Wembley winners v Old Trafford winners (Wembley, 7.30)

FINAL

Sun June 30 Wembley (7.0) BBC1 and ITV

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1960 USSR

1964 Spain

1968 Italy

1972 West Germany

1976 Czechoslovakia

1980 West Germany

1984 France

1988 Holland

1992 Denmark

RUNNERS-UP

1960 Yugoslavia

1964 USSR

1968 Yugoslavia

1972 USSR

1976 West Germany

1980 Belgium

1984 Spain

1988 USSR

1992 Germany

LATEST BETTING

11-4: Germany

3-1: Italy

5-1: France and Holland

9-1: England

10-1: Spain

12-1: Portugal

14-1: Croatia

LATEST BETTING

20-1: Bulgaria

33-1: Denmark

50-1: Russia

66-1: Scotland

150-1: Czech Republic

250-1: Switzerland

□ Odds by Ladbrokes



Graphic: Geoffrey Stone, Paul Bryant, David Hart

Already beyond the point of ironing bored

This has honestly been the longest week of my life. I have dutifully watched hours and hours of football on the telly. I've been bored, bored, bored — and trying very hard not to cry, if you want to know. "Pull yourself together," I kept saying aloud. "You're a professional, you watch *No Bananas*." But I found that I gradually started doing other tasks at the same time as the footie — tasks which grew in complexity as the week progressed. For example, during Germany v the Czech Republic, I did some light ironing; during Romania v France, I made some curtains; during Switzerland v Holland, I translated Kierkegaard from the Danish.

An occasional flash of interest was aroused, of course. What is a bread-and-butter ball, exactly? Is it anything like a rolled sandwich? Was that snot on Brian Laudrup's nose? No, it was a plaster. Was the Czech coach really called Urine? Why is the moustache still so popular on the

Continent? In my dreams I could still hear commentators droning against a rising backdrop of crowd noise. "To Sneez... To Dopey... some clearance. And Ooooooh. Over the bar." No, I mean it. If it hadn't been for ogling Ruud Gullit in the BBC intervals (or whatever they call them), I'd have rigged up my Euro 96 pager to the mains, and killed myself.

'Was that snot on Laudrup's nose?'

Which was why *The Times* sent me to Macclesfield. "How are you doing?" they asked. And in a small voice, I reported, "Portugal were good, weren't they?" Alerted to my terrifying apathy, they dispatched me at once to Cheshire, to watch Germans in the flesh. Here was a story, you see.

Evidently, the German coach had insulted the people of Macclesfield by stating that the Moss Rose pitch was "the worst he had seen for 30 years". He had found stones and glass on it and, therefore, refused to train there. Macclesfield was out-

raged. What stones? What glass? But now Herr Vogts had relented, and the open session was reinstated. In the *Macclesfield Express* Advertiser, the headline read: "Vogts backs down in face of fan's fury" — the punctuation suggesting that Macclesfield only has one fan.

But it was jolly nice to get out and about. At Moss Rose gangs of teenage schoolchildren leaned on the railings and ate chips while Jürgen Klinsmann could be seen in the distance, and we all agreed what a short, stocky fellow Thomas Hässler was. As PR, it lacked a certain something. "Will there be any autographs?" people asked. "Nein," came the reply. A moustached man in a German tracksuit passed among us, handing

out official squad photos with printed signatures on the back. Macclesfield was big enough to accept.

I have never watched footballers practising before, and I expect it was a rare privilege, but it was also rather creepy to see Germans playing other Germans, with a German referee. It looked like the future. Afterwards, at the press conference, I had the great good fortune to see goalkeeper Andreas Köpke and defenders Thomas Helmer and Markus Babel talk for long periods in German to a mob of German press.

They seemed to be thoroughly entertaining, but I'm only guessing. I sustained a look of polite, expectant interest for about 15 minutes, and then devoted most of my

attention to the uphill task of not passing out. They had given me a T-shirt with "Say no to drugs" in German on it.

Everyone says England v Scotland will wake us from our stupor, so let's hope. Meanwhile, great entertainment has been offered by the Euro 96 pager, as its comments have increasingly loosened up. It

superfluously after the Holland victory. How sweet. I will miss this pager when it's all over; it gives me a spurious feeling of importance. It buzzes in my bag, and I have to find it and check the message at once, feeling a bit like Dr Kildare. On Thursday, I made a dash for Waitrose between matches but took the pager with me, and sure enough, at 6.30 I was packing my cat food when the balloon went up.

"Stop", I said, and rummaged dramatically, chucking keys, diaries and old tissues on the conveyor belt. I grabbed the pager and pressed its buttons expertly. The checkout lady waited, presumably assuming I would be performing a kidney transplant within the hour.

"Please keep posted," it said, "for tonight's crunch match between Holland and the Swiss — goals etc." Unable to pass this message on, I just smiled enigmatically and said "Uh huh."

Euro 96, eh? Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive.

'Someone was getting excited, but it wasn't me'

LYNNE TRUSS



KICKING & SCREAMING

Klinsmann return set to boost Germans

BY PETER BALL

GERMANY are already strong favourites to win the European championship. They should be even stronger when they welcome back their leader, Jürgen Klinsmann, against Russia at Old Trafford tomorrow.

Berri Vogts, the manager, has been giving no indication as to who will partner Klinsmann. He has not even revealed whether he will play with five in midfield to counter the Russian strength or even whether he will bring back Freund who was suspended, along with Klinsmann, for the first game.

"I don't know who will be in the line-up," Vogts said yesterday. "There are two more training sessions to go and we will decide after that. I keep on being asked about names, but I'm not interested in stars and names. What matters is that the system works. I have basically interchangeable players here. Twenty-one top players to choose from."

But for all his stress on the team ethic, which has made the Germans such a powerful unit, there is no doubt that Klinsmann will start, and even Vogts broke his insistence on the importance of all his players, to praise his captain.

"Jürgen is the best forward we have and we have seen in the last year how important he is," Vogts said. "He is the leader of the pack, he takes command. Defence in the German team starts up front with forwards, and he runs like mad. He carries my system on to the pitch."

Klinsmann's importance as a defender may be overrated, but Germany's switch to a more aggressive, pressing style proved too much for the Czechs and, after watching Russia against Italy, Vogts is convinced that harrrying the Russians and stopping them from playing will be the way to beat them.

Germany have been practising pressing defenders, and it will be interesting to see how the Russians, who made a series of unforgotten errors against Italy, can cope with the stronger, more athletic German team.

The Russians believe that the return of Nikiforov will be the key to an improved performance in a game that they must win to stand any realistic chance of progressing. To do that, they will need a better performance from Kanchelskis than they received against Italy, but they would also need more fire-power.

Deschamps prepares to dictate the final chapter

BY DAVID MADDOCK

JAVIER CLEMENTE, the Spain coach, is a Basque, and proud of it. His philosophy is simple, one handed down through the generations: the team is greater than any individual. He is loathe to talk about France. Spain's opponents today, as anything other than a good team unit. Even so, he singles out one man to fear.

Didier Deschamps, the France captain, is the player he believes could threaten Spain's future participation in the European championship. "He is the nucleus, the man their whole game revolves around," Clemente said.

Technically gifted, Deschamps has that rare talent of controlling the tempo of a match, his running and passing skills able to change the pace almost at will. *Juventus* spotted these assets and spirited him away from Marseille, reaping an immediate reward when he helped secure the European Cup in May.

English football fascinates him, and he is particularly amused by the furore over the retelling of the habits of certain members of the England squad. "The English have a different cultural approach, they drink a lot of beer which other professionals wouldn't do," he said. "But they are used to it, so it doesn't affect them as much. It is a cultural thing."

"I think, though, that you will have to change that culture. In France we are already changing because of the good habits we have learnt from Italy. Ten years ago the English were physically and mentally stronger than continental opposition. Now other sides have caught them up all over the world — and have better technique. So now it is time for the English to copy and learn."

Deschamps has assumed the mantle of captaincy vacated by Eric Cantona. He admires Cantona, but fears that his presence in the squad would be too oppressive for some of the younger players. "I have no problem with him, to me he is an ordinary player, but maybe the younger players would be intimidated by his presence," he said.

It is the youth of the France squad that excites Deschamps but also persuades him to exercise caution in his predictions for a side increasingly seen as favourites. Despite the fact that nine of the squad are Italy-bound or currently play there, he wonders if they yet have the experience to survive the intensity of tournament play.

The match against Spain will provide some more answers. "We are unbeaten in 24 matches, but we have not faced a game like this. The pressures are very different at the finals, and Spain are hard competition. It will not be enough to just be technically better against them; this will show if we have the desire also."

Much will depend on Deschamps's ability to escape the constraints Clemente will devise for him. If the diminutive midfielder player can reproduce his form of the game against Romania, when his intelligent linking built the platform for victory, then Spain could be in trouble.

They know it. Bulgaria's defeat of Romania on Thursday applies intense pressure, and Fernando Hierro, the player charged with the task of stopping Deschamps, said: "It means we can not afford to lose. We have to concentrate everything on winning against France." Hierro, one suspects, has a job off his hands.

FOOTBALL: DEFENDER'S SUPERB VOLLEY ENDS TURKEY'S CHANCES OF MAKING PROGRESS FROM GROUP D

Couto rescues off-colour Portuguese

Portugal 1
Turkey 0

BY PETER BALL

NICE day, great atmosphere, shame about the football. That is beginning to be too frequent a refrain from this European championship, and it was true again in Nottingham yesterday as Portugal went to the top of Group D with a narrow single-goal victory which flattered them.

Portugal won some golden opinions for their display in their opening draw against Denmark. Yesterday they won, but lost credibility in the process, making distressingly heavy weather of beating a Turkey team which once again defended stubbornly.

Without Oceano, who was omitted after picking up a yellow card against Denmark, the much-admired Portuguese midfielder only performed fitfully. When they did, they got little support from their strikers. Both Pintos missed glar-

their fluent approach work, they were as inept as Portugal in front of goal.

They began with surprising conviction, dominating the first half-hour. But although chances came, they were spurned with some poor shooting. Saffet shot wide; Oguz shot straight at Baia; Hakan went on a nice run, beating a man but then shooting weakly from 30 yards.

Yet they might perhaps have had a penalty as Saffet held off Paulinho Santos only to be halted by a well placed knee from Helder. Saffet went down, but Mr Puhl, who does not have appear to have improved since the World Cup, ignored the claims.

While all this was going on, Portugal had done very little, but just after the half hour they showed what they are capable of. Rui Costa produced a superb piece of skill, beating Oguz and Vedat in five yards to reach the by-line. He rolled it back to Sa Pinto, who side-footed wide from five yards out.

Turkey responded with another chance of their own, but as Saffet headed down Abdullah's cross, Hakan pulled his shot badly wide. They did better defensively, Recep coming to the rescue with a brave header as Helder clattered in to him after Rustu had missed a corner. That ensured we reached the interval without a goal.

Again Turkey began with purpose, but Portugal had brought on Tavares to block in front of the back four in place of the ineffective Folha, and they began now to have more of the play. It didn't improve their strikers' performance in front of goal. Joao Pinto chesting down Sousa's cross only to mis-hit his shot against Rustu's legs as the goalie flung himself despairingly at him.

A draw was looking increasingly likely when finally a rare defensive mistake opened the way for a Portuguese goal. From Rui Costa's corner, Sousa crossed, but a defender mis-kicked and it fell for Couto, who hit a left foot volley through the crowded goal-mouth and into the corner. Couto celebrated with a somersault, but Portugal will have to do better than this if they are to trouble the teams which lie ahead.

The goal does not ensure that Portugal will go forward to the quarter-finals — they may yet need a point from their final game with Croatia. Turkey, meanwhile, go out, a fate which was predicted for them before the first ball was kicked.

Yet instead of them going meekly, they will leave with honour and, indeed, with thoughts of what might have been. They defied Croatia for 85 minutes in their opening match; yesterday, if their finishing had matched their general play, they might have provided the tournament's biggest shock so far. But for all



Ozalan, right, of Turkey, fends off a challenge from Folha of Portugal during their Group D clash in Nottingham

Boban's injury makes Croatia think

Russell Kempson on the influence of a captain whose team take on the holders

ZVONIMIR BOBAN, the Croatia captain, lists chess and reading, particularly philosophy, among his relaxations. It is precisely the calculated, thoughtful qualities needed for these pursuits that Croatia must display against Denmark, the European champions, in their group D fixture at Hillsborough tomorrow.

Yet whether Boban is available to provide such deep and meaningful assistance is a moot point. The AC Milan midfielder player sustained a knee injury in the 1-0 win over Turkey at the City Ground on Tuesday and was replaced in the 57th minute.

Miroslav Blazevic, the Croatia coach, played down its seriousness. "Boban will be ready," he said. "He must be." However, Mladen Cepulic, the team doctor, was less optimistic. "It may be medial

ligament damage," he said yesterday. "We will have to assess it again after he has rested some more."

Boban's presence is vital, physically as well as spiritually. Croatia place great emphasis on his leadership, during matches, on the training ground and around the team headquarters in Rutland, Leicestershire. He is the soul of their side.

Brian Laudrup, the Denmark and Rangers striker, also recognises his value. "We played together at Milan and he is the brain of the team. I'm certain he will play."

Whether playing or watching, Boban expects a more positive display than in the scrappy success against Tur-

key. "It was not a nice game, everybody saw that, but it was important to win," he said. "It was our first game in the European finals, it was an emotional day for every one of us, even when we ran out on to the pitch."

"Turkey ran at us very hard and they were very aggressive. It was difficult, we really didn't expect that. We can give 30 to 40 per cent better and I'm sure we will see that soon, but Denmark will not make it easy for us."

Blazevic has other problems, with Alen Boksic, the striker, and Mario Stanic, the midfielder player, still receiving treatment for injuries sustained in the same match. Should Boksic fail a fitness

test, Goran Vlaovic, the substitute who scored the winning goal, will start in his place.

After a 1-1 draw with Portugal in their opening game, Denmark need a victory to enhance their prospects of a successful defence of the title they won four years ago in Sweden. Richard Moeller Nielsen is expected to make changes from the side that led 1-0 through an early goal from Brian Laudrup, but were pegged back by Sa Pinto's 52nd-minute equaliser.

Mikkel Beck, the Fortuna Cologne striker, who has been linked with a move to Middlesbrough, could be the main casualty. Kim Vilfort, scorer of one of the goals in the 2-0 victory over Germany in the 1992 final, is likely to start for the first time in the tournament.

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SATURDAY JUNE 15 1996

TENNIS 52

MUSTER MUSCLES IN
ON SEMI-FINAL
AT QUEEN'S CLUB

England and Scotland renew acquaintance at Wembley after seven-year gap

Passion play takes centre stage

Holland
send
Davids
home

By ROB HUGHES

THE clans coming down from Scotland, officially 8,000 strong, but you can bet more than 20,000 will get tickets, passed south of Hadrian's Wall yesterday. The Trafalgar Square fountains were switched off as a precaution, and the first meeting of the old acquaintances, England and Scotland, since the authorities deemed the match harmful to the nations' health seven years ago, will start at Wembley Stadium at three o'clock today.

It is a game out of kilter with Euro 96. The pace will be frenzied, the fervour parochial. Faster will be the bursts of adrenalin, higher will be the tackles, and there will be less time for the brain to control much of the body movement. One knows it is unlikely to be on a par with the skills of Stoichkov, the balance of Bergkamp, the invention of Paulo Sousa. One need not pretend that the British can match the quality and the imagination with which so many of our visitors are playing. But will any of the games set pulses racing quicker than this afternoon's anticipated tribalism?

One can be sure that the players of all 14 other nations in the tournament will be among the television audience of a game also being broadcast in 194 foreign lands, and that they all expect a throwback to the British passion play that stimulated an interest in football in many a far off country.

Motivation mounts to malfunction level

THE time for talking is ebbing away, but Terry Venables can still hear a pendulum ticking (Oliver Holt writes). He was concerned, he said yesterday, that his players' "motivational clocks" should be set at exactly 12 o'clock, ready for the meeting with Scotland at Wembley today. Judging by the belligerence of some of his squad at Bisham Abbey, though, both the big hand and the little hand have developed a malfunction.

ROB HUGHES



Football
Correspondent

Visitors to the heart of the Midlands, to Shakespeare country, this past week, cannot have mistaken the intensity of Scotland's training. In particular, the little men, John Spencer, Stewart McKinnie, and John Collins, none of them as tall as 5ft 8in, bring to mind the Wembley Wizards who, in 1923, came down to London, were not rated, and tore England asunder 5-1.

The *Glasgow Herald* of the time reported: "It was another

Scots arrive 1
Exam pressure 5
Leading article 25
Buoyant Brown 53

demonstration that Scottish skill, science, and trickery will prevail against the less attractive and simpler methods of the English style, in which speed is relied upon as a major factor." The *Daily Record* had another dagger for English hearts: "Every man touched his highest pinnacle. Every man became part of an efficient machine that crushed the Saxons."

Almost 70 years on, the names rather than the intentions have changed. Scotland take an age to score one goal, never mind five but, under Craig Brown, they have been welded into a team that ex-

There was no word from Paul Gascoigne, the player thought most likely to let the tension get the better of him. However, Alan Shearer summed up the mood of many players: "Wembley will not be a place for little boys," he said. "The tackles will be flying in."

ceeds the sum of its parts — a defensive unit whose parsimony has allowed their past 11 opponents, including Russia and Holland, to breach their goal line only three times.

But today will be an examination of both sides. Woe betide England if they run out of gas, as they did after an hour against Switzerland, for despite the fact that eight of the Scots — possibly nine, if Ally McCoist gets into the action — are over 30 years of age, the proof that they have been stamina training while England have been doing other things was their staying power against the Dutch.

Club allegiances will become secondary this afternoon. Alan Shearer, a veritable soldier in the way he puts himself about for England, will be repelled time and time again by Colin Hendry, his club-mate at Blackburn Rovers. Shearer versus Hendry, with his mane of blond hair and often a warrior's headband, Braveheart personified, is an encounter to relish.

In midfield, Gary McAllister is Scotland's creator, while Stuart McCall, born a Yorkshireman, will dog the movements of Paul Gascoigne, his Rangers team-mate. Whether Gascoigne can evade his marker, whether he can release the passes of vision that England desperately require, is paramount. At Bisham Abbey yesterday, the continuing secrecy and lack of communication between the England coach and the scribes led to rumours that Gascoigne was about to be dropped.

Yet, in 2½ years, Terry Venables has rarely looked at another playmaker. Matthew Le Tissier was quickly shown the door. Steve McManaman has seldom been allowed in from the left wing. Even when Gascoigne was errant in mind and ailing in body, England were being fashioned around him. It would be like a man dropping his son and, despite the physical fading of Gascoigne last week, almost tantamount to throwing in "the towel. His habits have hardly given his gifts the chance to breathe, but in this squad he is the best that England have.

If there is a winner this afternoon, they could finish top of the group. Holland, unquestionably more talented, have laboured and are now squabbling among themselves.

If Lineker is right, if England do prevail, then the mood of the group will have changed before they meet Holland on Tuesday. However, the Scots are not in a mood to acquiesce, and if they should win, the last words for England could come from the Bard himself: "That is the true beginning of our end."



Shearer's power and aggression were evident during England's training session at Bisham Abbey yesterday

THE Dutch ability to shoot their talent in the foot by excessive use of the mouth has struck again. Holland yesterday expelled from the squad Edgar Davids, a midfield tiger so powerful and so skilled that he would walk into almost any other national team.

Davids had the previous night criticised Guus Hiddink, the national coach, in such offensive terms on Dutch television, that he gave the coach little alternative. When Davids had cooled down, he was prepared to moderate his language but not to retract the essence of his criticism, which was that the manager favoured other players.

Foolish young man, Davids, who can perform a variety of roles, had just obtained his release from contract at Ajax, and moves to Milan this summer. At 23, he had the world at his feet, and has rashly kicked away perhaps not only this opportunity, but any others while Hiddink is in charge.

My sympathies lie totally with the coach. He must have seemed to the players, who in the tradition of the Dutch like to think that they run the show, a weak man. He had, a year ago, virtually adopted the Ajax method, their personnel and everything bar their trainer, Louis Van Gaal.

Perhaps therein lies the Dutch dilemma. Van Gaal rules Ajax with the severity of a headmaster, his personality dominates the players, who, like Davids himself, have often been schooled at the club from the age of seven.

But, coming in to Euro 96 without the speed and balance of Marc Overmars on the wing, attempting to nurse Patrick Kluivert, his striker, tenderly back to form after surgery, the last thing Hiddink needed was dissent in the ranks.

Against Scotland both Davids and the younger Clarence Seedorf had allowed themselves to be drawn in to the frenzy of the Scottish pattern. Reasonably, Hiddink dropped one of them, Davids, and soon had to take off Seedorf when his continuing rashness could have had him sent off in the opening quarter of the match against Switzerland.

It was after that that Davids criticised Hiddink and Seedorf had already been critical of others in the team. Hiddink called time and demonstrated who is in charge, demonstrated that standards must apply. One hopes he will profit rather than pay, for his toughness.

Part-time shift will reap rich reward for Gascoigne

Bobby Robson believes sporadic bursts of a
Rangers player's talent could stifle the Scots

SOME people are saying the Scots are the favourites at Wembley today but that is not the way I see it. They did very well against the Dutch at Villa Park but they were still goal-shy. They played marvellously to get a point but they were not making chances. I don't think they can play any better than that.

England, on the other hand, can play better than they did against Switzerland. We know they can. The second-half performance the Dutch put in against the Swiss on Thursday night exposed just how poorly we played in the last 45 minutes at Wembley last Saturday. Holland showed us what we should have done. But if we play to our ability, we will beat the Scots.

It is going to be like a derby. It is the Battle of Britain, after all, and the Scots will be very determined and buoyant. They will be working

it all out, saying England drew with Switzerland. Holland beat Switzerland, and we drew with Holland, therefore we must be better than England. They will believe they can get a result.

We cannot afford to worry about the permutations or to think that if we win today we will be able to play out a draw with Holland and comfortably. We have got to concentrate on our own game, to get the points ourselves. Whatever the others do, nothing is a good result if England lose.

What the Dutch did against the Swiss will have made the England team angry with themselves and even more determined to put matters right against the Scots. It will have been drummed into them that their performance sagged in the second half and that it must not happen again. They will not want people to accuse them of being out

of condition. They have got a hard fight on their hands, but it is one they should win.

With respect to the Scots, the English team looks a bit more talented. Gascoigne was their player of the year north of the border and they must be afraid of him a little bit. They will probably try and man-mark him but he should be experienced enough to deal with that by now.

Most of all, I would not worry about whether Paul lasts the pace or not. If he can play for 70 minutes, even less, and set up a couple of goals in that time, he will have done his job and then some. He does not need to be fighting and scrapping like he did for me in

the 1990 World Cup. He has not got the all-round stamina to do that now. He is a different player.

I know there has been a lot of fuss about him fading out of the game but if you look at it, none of the great players really do it for 90 minutes. Even Maradona only did it in flashes. He would turn it on for 20 minutes, then disappear, then turn it on for another 20 and that would probably be enough.

That is all we should ask of Gascoigne. We must give him the ball and let him create. What he does between those bursts of influence does not matter. In those two 20-minute spells he will win us the game.

Then, after 70 minutes, you take him off, you say: "Thank you very much, Gascoigne," and you bring Platt on.

Whatever happens, the squad is in the best possible hands under the guidance of Terry Venables and Don Howe. I like Terry a lot. He is a bright lad, he has worked abroad, he knows the game through and through. He is not afraid of the press and I like that. Neither of them will have left a stone unturned to make sure the team goes out there in the best possible frame of mind.

I'm still confident that we can get to the quarter-finals and that is when the real quality football will start taking place. So far, Italy's performance against Russia was probably the pick of the action and, in some ways, it was particularly satisfying from a managerial point of view because Sacchi had so

much criticism for leaving out Roberto Baggio and Vialli.

It was nice to see his choices of Zola and Casiraghi vindicated. I was impressed with Maldini against Kanchelskis and I thought Albertini was super. The Germans looked ominously efficient, too, and that was without Klinsmann.

I know Portugal have had a lot of attention after their first game and I have always thought they would be a dark horse. I know a lot about them after my time in Lisbon and Porto and their midfield, in particular, is as good as any in the tournament. Figo is a great tackler. Sousa is an exquisite passer of the ball and Rui Costa is a fine runner off the ball, so they have really got it all.

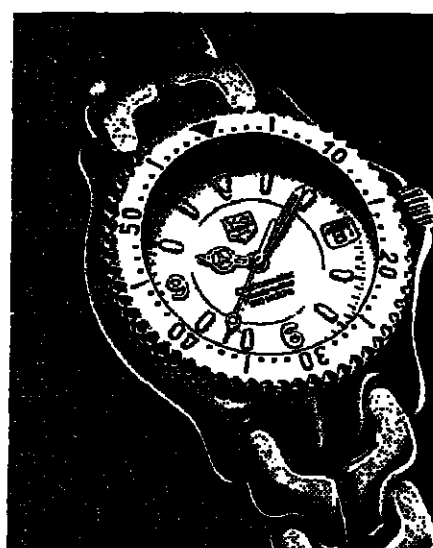
All these delights will be waiting for England later in the tournament. They just have to get the Scots out of the way first.

HONOURS



JACK RUSSELL, the England wicketkeeper, was appointed MBE in the Birthday Honours List released today. There was a CBE for Chris Brasher, creator of the London Marathon, and MBEs for golfer Sam Torrance and Colin McKee, motor rally world champion.

Full list, pages 12, 13, 14



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Watches of Switzerland

With the breaking of bread, we feed on Christ in our hearts

Ludwig Feuerbach, the German atheist philosopher who so powerfully influenced Karl Marx, once summarised his materialist understanding of human nature in a phrase: "Man is what he eats." For Feuerbach, all talk of God was but a projection of human aspiration, human ideals writ large on the heavens. He reversed the Christian understanding, in which God in Christ expresses His life and being in a total identification with us. Christians recently kept the

Feast of Corpus Christi, a day of thanksgiving for the sacrament of the Eucharist or Holy Communion, of thanksgiving for heavenly food. Feuerbach was right to underline the importance of food for human life. Without it we die. So it is not surprising that feasting — eating and drinking together — is so powerful in binding together the human community. Wedding feasts, funeral feasts, company dinners and birthday parties celebrate stages on life's way and our human belonging. On the night before he died

Jesus came together with his disciples to celebrate the Passover meal, the deliverance of his people from slavery in Egypt. At the beginning of that meal he gave thanks and, taking bread, broke it and shared it out with the words, "Take this and eat, this is my body." In the same way he shared a cup of wine, with the words, "Drink this, this is my blood." The language and the action are those of sacrifice. It is a sign interpreting Jesus's death. But it is also an effectual sign of His presence, a "holy communion" in

Credo

Geoffrey Rowell

which those who share in it are bound together, nourished and sustained by His life. When Christians "do this" in obedience and memory of Christ, they are drawn into his self-offering. It is a feast of the transforming love and the grace of God.

Christians have in the past been sadly and sharply divided over the meaning of this sacrament. Bitter words have been spoken and written about how Christ is present in the Eucharist. It has been as though you attempted to analyse a kiss, and tried to divide the love from the kiss by which that love was expressed. The breaking of bread is a gesture of God, whom the Christian faith speaks of as Holy Trinity, a communion of love. To celebrate Holy Communion is to share in that love. We feed on Christ in our

hearts by faith with thanksgiving, as we feed on the sacramental reality of His presence in the bread and wine.

George Herbert spoke of how, "by the way of nourishment and strength", Christ crept into his breast, "making Thy ways my rest, and Thy small quantities my length". These are indeed holy mysteries and there is wisdom in the words of Elizabeth I, at a time of great dispute about Christ's presence in the sacrament: "Christ was the Word and spake it: He took the bread and brake it: and

what His Word did make it that I believe and take it."

Corpus Christi celebrates the gift of Christ's life in this sacrament, a gift that has inspired the music of great Masses, which are still able to catch us into the heavenly places, and yet it is a gift that remains at its heart a simple eating and drinking, a stretching out of hands to receive the bread of life and the cup of salvation, a foretaste of the banquet of Heaven.

The Right Rev Geoffrey Rowell is Bishop of Basildon

Prince backs campaign to save Sinai monastery

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales is supporting a new foundation to ensure the survival of the world's oldest active monastery, St Catherine's on Mount Sinai in Egypt.

Nearly £3 million is needed to safeguard the future of the monastery, where monks have worshipped since the end of the fourth century, and which stands at the foot of the mountain where God is said to have given the Ten Commandments to Moses. The 20 monks, who include 28-year-old Father Nilus from Devon, also need funds to help them to preserve thousands of ancient religious manuscripts, a collection second only to that in the Vatican.

According to the Prince, who launched the foundation at Bridgewater House in St James's, London, last night, one of the main threats to the monastery is tourism. The Prince, who visited St Catherine's during a tour of Egypt last year, says in the foreword to a book published yesterday that he was "deeply moved" by the sense of continuity and timelessness that imbues the monastery and surroundings. "However, it was also apparent that the incursions of the modern world have imposed considerable strains on

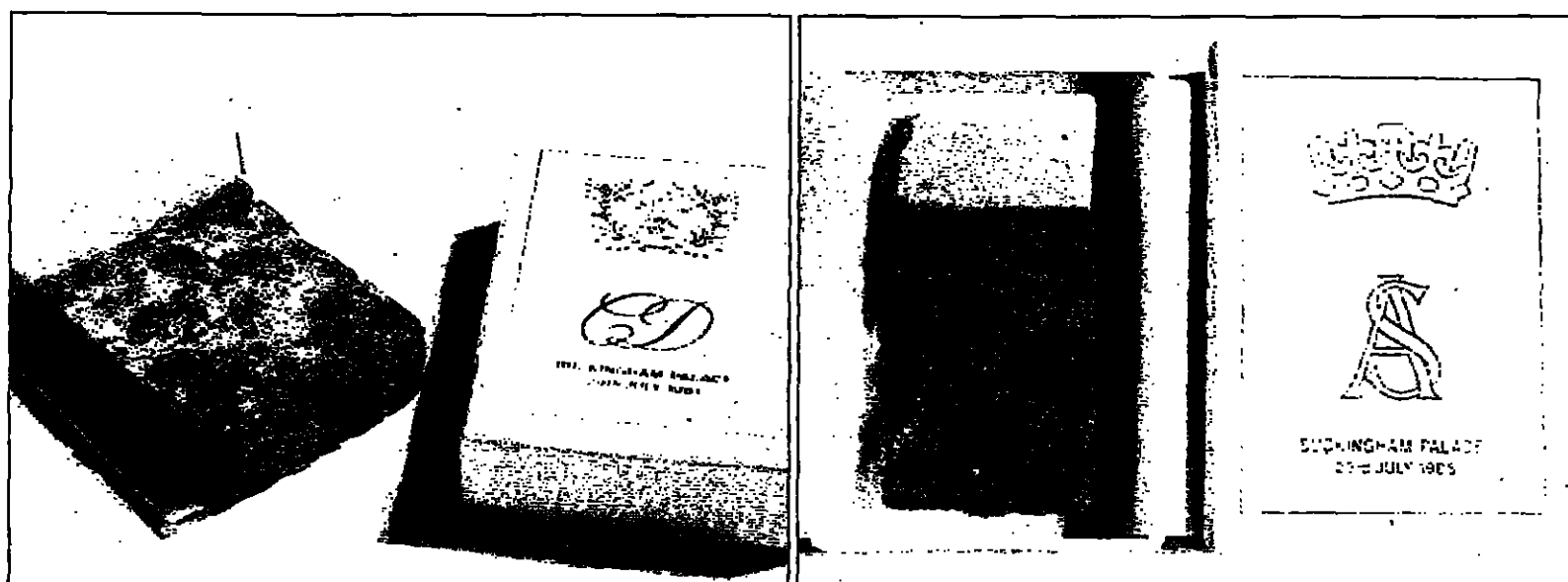
St Catherine's. In the last 20 years, tourism has had an impact on the spiritual and physical life of the monastery that 2,000 years of the currents of human history have been unable to destroy."

The Prince continues: "The traditional life of the monastery is now at risk, not only because the monastic vocation is disrupted by the large number of tourists, but also because the very weight of visitors is itself introducing new conservation problems."

Archbishop Damianos of Sinai, in London for the launch, described difficulties introduced to the monastic life "due to the great numbers of visitors". There were also problems of maintenance and conservation.

The Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres, a foundation trustee, said: "St Catherine's monastery is a great sign of hope in the modern world. It is a holy place for three great religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam honour Sinai as the place where Moses met God face to face, first in the vision of the burning bush and then at the top of the mountain."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 13



Slices of history: each piece of the 1981 wedding cake, left, is expected to fetch up to £200 while morsels of the Yorks' cake may bring only £120

Tiers for souvenirs in royal wedding auction

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE wedding cake of the Prince and Princess of Wales was a magnificent rococo creation at the time, five tiers and 5ft high, covered in 40lb of icing. Now pieces of it are to be auctioned like fragments of the Berlin Wall, another outdated and, for some, unwanted relic of a period best forgotten.

Tiny presentation slices of the cake, double-wrapped in wax paper inside their original, white giftboxes decorated with the Prince of Wales's feathers and the entwined initials CD, are expected to make up to £200 at an auction of royal collectibles to be held at Swindon, Wiltshire, on Thursday.

But there is a clear pecking order of failed royal marriages. It is estimated that similar minute slices of the Duke and Duchess of York's



The Princes' marriages have proved less durable than their wedding confections

wedding cake will fetch only £120. Pierre Spake, the catalogue at Dominic Winter auctioneers, said: "I am not sure anybody has sold slices of royal cake before. It is very unusual and there is already a lot of interest."

One piece of the Wales's

cake was raffled for £50 at a village fete in Rogate, West Sussex, in 1983, when the royal couple were still giving the world the appearance of happy union.

The cake slices being auctioned on Thursday belonged to a former Buckingham

Palace chef, who has since died. He spent much of his life gathering insignificant mementoes from his royal employers. As subsequent events turned out, many of the souvenirs now have unhappy associations.

Other lots include the wed-

ding breakfast menu from the marriage of Princess Margaret and Antony Armstrong-Jones (failed) and a similar breakfast menu from the marriage of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips (failed).

The Prince and Princess of Wales's wedding cake was created by a team of cooks from the Royal Navy based at Chatham, Kent, using 175lb of currants, sultanas, raisins, cherries, mixed peel, butter, brown sugar, free-range eggs, ground and nibbled almonds, black treacle, mixed spices, flour, zest of lemon and orange, 40lb of marzipan — and a hefty dose of Navy rum to ensure that it would still be edible 15 years later.

The naval base at Chatham survived for a rather shorter time. It was closed in September 1983, only two years after the wedding.

Cardinal finds truth in lives of the saints

THE lives of the ancient saints of Britain contain much that was still relevant to people living today, according to Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster.

Cardinal Hume, writing on the lives of northern saints such as Paulinus, Aidan, Hilda and Cuthbert, says that their simplicity, learning and aesthetic sensibility are qualities as much in need today as they were in the first few centuries AD. In a book to be published next week, he uses the lives of these saints to try to confront questions such as "What is life all about?" and "What are we here for?"

Cardinal Hume, who grew up in Newcastle upon Tyne, says that when St Paulinus evangelised Northumbria in the 7th century "religion was not considered only a matter of personal, one-on-one relationship with the divine. Rather, it was, as with so many other aspects of Northumbrian life, also a concern of the clan, of the people as a whole."

The "common life", based on communion with God and neighbour, is one of the principal thrusts of evangelism today. "People today are searching for the spiritual, and indeed also for community," he says. "Saints from all ages have something to say to us — their lives speak eloquently of God. We can be more touched by contact with holy people than by any number of sermons."

Footprints of the Northern Saints (Darton Longman & Todd: £7.95)

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Win a pair of tickets to the Euro 96 final

Plus stay overnight at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington

TODAY The Times gives you the chance to win a pair of tickets to the Euro 96 final at Wembley on June 30 compliments of Fujifilm, one of the official Euro 96 sponsors. Plus our winner and a partner will stay overnight at the official Euro 96 headquarters, the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington, London.

It was at the Royal Garden that the triumphant England team appeared on the balcony cheering crowds after winning the World Cup in 1966, and it is here that the Euro 96 trophy will be kept during the tournament.

Our winning couple will stay in a junior suite and enjoy a superb champagne breakfast. They will also take lunch in the Park Terrace restaurant which is renowned for its stylish decor and the floor to ceiling windows overlooking Hyde Park. Dinner will be in The Tenth restaurant which has unbroken views across Kensington Gardens.

The winners can choose to travel on the Sunday of the match and stay at the Royal Garden afterwards, or arrive in London the evening before.



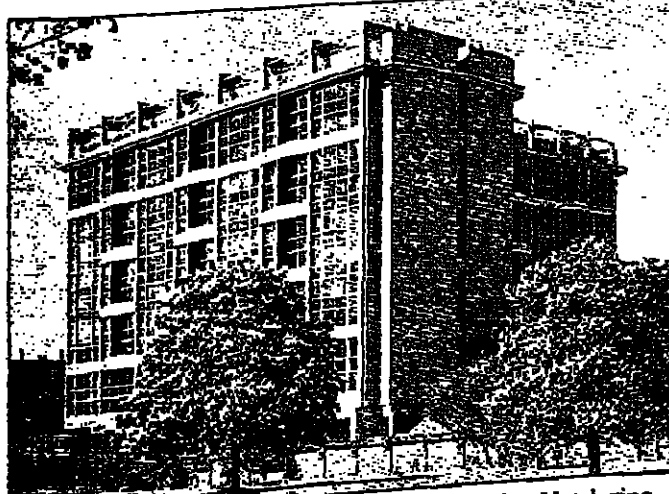
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Who scored England's goal in last Saturday's match against Switzerland?

- a) Teddy Sheringham
- b) Alan Shearer
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The winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight Monday, June 17, 1996. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.



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ADRIAN BROWN

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China space chiefs 'ready to expend human lives'

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

CHINA shows a callous disregard for human life at its rocket launch site, according to a memorandum written by an Intelsat manager after a disastrous attempt to launch a satellite on February 14.

The rocket veered off course and crashed, killing at least six people, according to the Chinese. The Intelsat memorandum, obtained by a Washington newspaper, *Science and Government Report*, says that in no circumstances can Intelsat use the launch site again.

Since the disaster, two planned Intelsat launches from the site at Xichang, in Sichuan province, have been switched to American Atlas rockets. Other companies have also abandoned the Chi-

nese Long March launchers, which have had two disasters involving loss of life.

However, China has announced this week three launches at the site, two for the American company Hughes Space and Communications, and a third for a Chinese satellite. The first of the Hughes launches, of the Apstar 1 telecommunications satellite, is planned for early next month.

The Intelsat memorandum says that the site falls "pathetically short of world standards" and that those running it show a blindness to safety.

During the attempted launch on February 14 of the Intelsat 708 satellite, the Long March 3B launcher veered off course before it had even cleared the tower, but ground controllers allowed it to fly for

20 seconds and turn back towards the ground before destroying it. Chinese officials said initially that there had been no deaths, later admitting to six fatalities and 57 injuries.

But an Israeli cameraman who was filming the launch took pictures of soldiers clearing bodies and wreckage over a large area and estimates that 100 people had died. In an earlier disaster, in January 1995, six deaths were officially admitted.

The Intelsat memorandum lends some support to the Israeli claims. It says observers were prevented from leaving the viewing area for nine hours after the crash.

"This gave the Chinese enough time to clear any dead people from the gate and village areas, which were not

evacuated to our knowledge," the memorandum says.

China has launched several satellites successfully with Long March rockets and all satellite launchers can have failures, as the European Space Agency proved with Ariane 5. The unique feature of the Chinese launch site, however, is that it is near populated areas. Some have speculated that the delay by flight controllers before destroying the rocket in the February disaster was because they did not want to damage the launch tower.

Officials of Great Wall Industry Corporation which runs the launch site have refused to comment on its safety. After a previous failure, the satellite maker was blamed, which caused general derision.

Attack on Rommel's image sets back German build-up for Bosnia role

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

ERWIN ROMMEL, the famed "Desert Fox" of the North African campaign, came under heavy fire yesterday from a leading German writer who urged the Defence Minister to stop glorifying the former tank commander.

Ralph Giordano, a novelist, argued in an open letter to Volker Rühe, the Defence Minister, that Rommel was in sympathy with Hitler for most of his career. Rommel was a commander in northern Italy when tens of thousands of Italians were being deported to German labour camps. He was also a propaganda favourite of Joseph Goebbels and the Nazis. That was sufficient, said the writer, to strip Field Marshal Rommel's name from army barracks throughout Germany.

The row could not come at a more sensitive time. Germany has been quietly reviving military traditions in its army to give soldiers role models for their first combat missions abroad since the war. The Germans are expected, for example, to play a larger role in the Nato mission in Bosnia if its mandate is extended beyond December.

Germany has few military heroes, and until now Rommel — captor of Tobruk and master of tank tactics — has been regarded as an uncontroversial choice. His advanced knowledge of the 1944 plot to kill Hitler, his decision not to pass on the information, and his subsequent suicide (encouraged by the Gestapo, who offered him a choice between a cyanide pill and a treason trial), have ensured that he was not placed in the gallery of wartime villains by the history writers of modern Germany.



Rommel: "always close to the Nazis and was as popular with Hitler as with his own soldiers"

British historians have also treated Rommel gently, pointing to his relatively fair treatment of British prisoners of war in the desert campaign.

But Herr Giordano wants to change all that. He is of Jewish origin — much of his writing deals with the problem of being German and Jewish — and is regarded as a

voice of conscience. He spearheaded a campaign to exclude Nazi generals Ludwig Kübler and Eduard Dietl from the ranks of German military heroes. Barracks honouring the two generals had to be renamed. The Wehrmacht, said Herr Giordano, captured territory which later became the scene of atrocities. "It was

also deeply involved itself in massacres, as has now become belatedly clear from an overwhelming mass of documentation."

Since Rommel was a senior Wehrmacht commander, that alone should be enough to exclude him from the army pantheon. But there was much more against him. After the failed attempt to kill Hitler on July 20 1944, Rommel showed nothing but relief that his Führer was still alive. "Thank God that all went well," he wrote to his wife.

In the case presented by Herr Giordano, Rommel was never a serious resistance fighter and was always close to the Nazis. Between the war he gave military training to Hitler Youth recruits. He supported the invasion of Poland in 1939 and was as popular with Hitler as with his own soldiers.

The main case against the field marshal, however, emerges from his stint in the north Italian command in 1943. "Communists and anarchists had to be punished with the full force of German military justice," read one Rommel order from September 1943. Later that month he ordered the toughest possible treatment of Italian soldiers still wearing Axis uniforms. And in October he began deporting Italian prisoners to work in Germany. According to Herr Giordano's letter to the Defence Minister, the deportations resulted in "twenty thousand dead in camps, thousands more murdered, and tens of thousands lost their lives in prisoner transports."

The minister is said to have set his Defence Ministry historians in search of more positive information about the suddenly controversial Desert Fox.

Vatican in row over women at UN summit

FROM ANDREW FINKEL
IN ISTANBUL

WESTERN diplomats were yesterday accusing Iran and the Vatican of hijacking the UN Habitat II summit which ended yesterday in Istanbul.

The two theocracies stood united in trying to block references in the final declaration to the right of women to have access to birth control and abortion.

Representatives from European Union states were describing as "inadmissible" an attempt to reopen — at a meeting intended to discuss housing and human settlements — issues which were already debated and resolved in the previous UN conferences in Cairo and Peking.

Spokesmen for the Holy See justified their delegation's intransigence at a press conference by saying that problems like HIV infection were dwarfed by the spread, for example, of tropical diseases.

The row is all the more surprising given the smooth passage of what was meant to be the true controversial proposal of the Istanbul meeting — that citizens had a right to housing that governments were obliged to meet.

The American delegation dropped their initial objections after a compromise wording. The final Istanbul Declaration is expected to contain reference to "governments' obligation to enable people to obtain shelter and to improve their neighbourhoods."

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Buoyant Yeltsin returns home for final rousing rally

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN YEKATERINBURG

PRESIDENT YELTSIN ended his election campaign in his home town yesterday with a rousing speech, confident of a victory that was almost unthinkable four months ago.

"Yeltsin and only Yeltsin!" proclaimed a huge banner at a top concert in the centre of Yekaterinburg with 30,000 people spread along the banks of the river. They roared in approval as Mr Yeltsin, in shirt-sleeves, and his family took the stage. He shouted "We will win!" and raised his hand in a salute.

"Five years ago we chose freedom, a renewed Russia, a decent new life," he told the crowd. "We have crossed the main frontier, we have gone forward. Now it is clear we will solve our problems and we will achieve victory. I see it in your faces: I have seen faces like these all over the country. It is the face of a new young Russia!"

His message, as throughout his campaign, was aimed at young people and first-time voters, in an attempt to distinguish himself from the Communists and their mainly elderly supporters. A touring roadshow of Russian rock stars, such as Time Machine, the Soviet Union's Abba, had crossed the country with him endlessly repeating the campaign slogan: "Vote or lose!"

"I am a soft person," said Tatyana Popova, 22, a nurse, sitting on the grass with her friends enjoying the music. "All these concerts have played a role and Yeltsin is on television all the time. It makes an impression."

Mr Yeltsin's poll ratings have improved and he is predicting victory in the first round of the elections tomorrow. It has been an extraordinary turnaround, considering that he had a rating of little more than 10 per cent when he launched his campaign in February and was trailing Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader. The



Yeltsin campaign has gathered strength partly as a result of the raw power of the state apparatus thrown behind him as he toured the country. The main TV channels gave him as much airtime as he needed. The main factor, however, has been Mr Yeltsin himself, re-born as the gruff populist President of 1991. Every night he has been shown on television talking to miners, wading through crowds or dancing at concerts, showing his knack for communicating with ordinary people.

Yekaterinburg is a prosperous city full of new shops and cafes. With the elections, however, it is as though the Soviet days are back and there is only one candidate. The streets are plastered with hundreds of Yeltsin posters. In a straw poll of 50 voters, 32 said they were backing Mr Yeltsin.

"We have to support Yeltsin because he comes from here," said Nikolai Glushkov, 30, a businessman. "Things are just starting here. If the Communists come to power, there is no future and I'd be better off taking a machinegun and going into the forests."

A few voters said the Yeltsin campaign had been an insult to democracy. On one "Vote or lose!" poster someone had written: "You don't have to order and threaten. Everyone will vote freely, as the heart dictates."

Although the President refuses to discuss a second round of elections, that option is looking increasingly likely and Mr Yeltsin hinted yesterday that he was seeking the endorsements of other non-Communist candidates. He told reporters that he knew who would be President after himself, and that person was one of the candidates competing on Sunday.

"By 2000 we have to have schooled a President who people know, who has authority, who is loved by everyone in Russia," he said. "I know this person, and if I were him I would withdraw my candidacy now. In that case, he would be elected President for sure next time."

Mr Yeltsin could have been referring either to Aleksandr Lebed, the retired general, or Grigori Yavlinsky, the liberal economist, who are competing for third place on Sunday. Either man's endorsement could help to achieve Mr Yeltsin's safe re-election.

Robert Conquest, page 24
Leading article, page 25



A Russian conscript pins up electoral information in the cultural centre of his base in Lyubertsy. Soldiers and civilians will cast their vote there tomorrow

Top contenders neck and neck as campaign ends

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S ten presidential hopefuls wrapped up months of bruising, exhausting and costly campaigning yesterday as the democracy that spans 11 time zones prepared to choose — for the first time in its history — who to elect as head of state.

As President Yeltsin ended a national tour with a rally in Yekaterinburg, his Urals hometown, his main rival, Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, squeezed in last Moscow interviews.

Judging from patchy opinion polls, the two are running neck and neck. The other eight candidates trail far behind. Two pollsters, by the VTSIOM and Romir agencies, gave Mr Yeltsin about one-third support, placing him more than 10 points ahead of Mr Zyuganov. The rest all polled below 10 per cent.

However, a rival study released yesterday by Nazzar Betanelli showed Mr Zyuganov with 35 per cent support, three points clear of Mr Yeltsin. In all three, Aleksandr Lebed, the former army

general, was in third place. Yesterday Mr Yeltsin and Mr Zyuganov predicted confidently that they would capture the Kremlin. However, it seems clear that no candidate will win the 50 per cent necessary for an outright victory and that the two will fight a run-off, set for July 7.

The campaign's closing stages have been marked by a spate of politically motivated violence, allegations of abuse of power by the President's election team, and heavily partisan media coverage.

There have been allegations that both sides are intending to mount major ballot-rigging operations, which even the thousands of observers drafted in to check the counting could be hard pressed to detect at the 93,000 polling stations.

Vitali Tretyakov, editor of the daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, likened the poll to flipping a coin. The importance, he emphasised, was not whether it landed heads or tails, but that the country accepted the result.



President Yeltsin greets the crowds during a rock concert held in his home town of Yekaterinburg

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News Release

June 1996

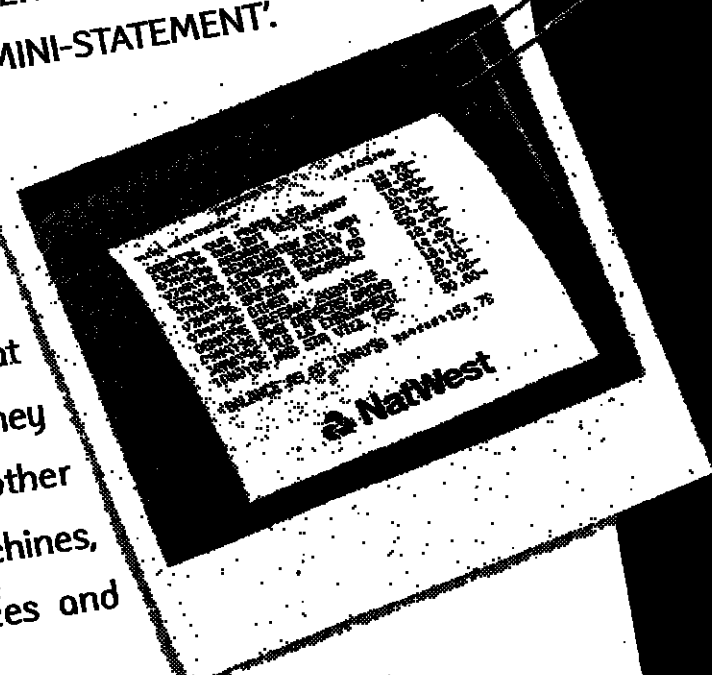
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More than just a bank

Freemen swap siege ranch for jail cells

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN SAN FRANCISCO

MEMBERS of the Freemen of Montana militia awoke yesterday in small, disinfected cells at Yellowstone County jail after a bloodless end to the 81-day siege of their remote western ranch.

For the iconoclastic Freemen, with their code of self-sufficiency and pioneer lawlessness, it was galling to be stirred by the clank of a prison guard's keys, but the government-supplied breakfast was accepted with eagerness.

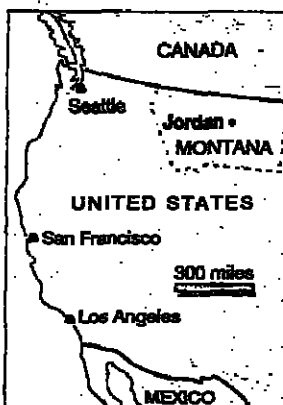
During the siege they survived on tinned and dried food, but by the end were down to starvation rations. Jaylynn Ward, eight, who left the compound earlier this week, said that the 16 were down to their last loaf of bread and last jar of jam.

The siege ended late on Thursday when the Freemen surrendered to the FBI and were driven off in blue minibuses to jail in Billings, the nearest city.

Fourteen were held and will be charged with a variety of crimes, from threatening local officials to assisting federal fugitives and running an alleged \$1.8 million (£1.2 million) cheque fraud scheme. Two Freemen wives were allowed to go free.



FBI agents escorting the sixteen Freemen to jail from their Montana compound wave the Stars and Stripes. An agent tore down a Confederate flag at the ranch



Officials said the only concessions made to the Freemen were to take into consideration the health of two elderly members during bail proceedings and to allow the Freemen to hand over certain documents to the state legislature.

Up to 27 people, including several children, were in the compound during the siege, but over the weeks 11 people, including four girls, voluntarily left the ranch or decided to surrender.

The FBI, which had 100 agents around the perimeter of the Freemen compound, defiantly named Justus Township, was relieved that the group decided to surrender quietly rather than trying to go

out in a blaze of gunfire. Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, was anxious to avoid a repetition of the violent end to the 1993 Branch Davidian siege in Waco, Texas, where more than 80 people died in an inferno. That disaster led to dangerous tensions among militia groups and is thought to have inspired the Oklahoma City bombing.

Louis Freeh, the FBI director, said that "all American people should take great comfort" from the Freemen's conclusion, and praised his bureau's patience. Further congratulations came from President Clinton, who interrupted his White House dinner with President Mary

Robinson of Ireland to announce the good news, flanked by a gum-chewing bodyguard.

During the Montana siege, the FBI negotiated at length with the Freemen, using go-betweens known to the rebels, who made clear their contempt for federal authority by flying the US flag upside down on the strategic rise they called Sentry Hill. Shortly before they left the ranch on Thursday, they replaced the Stars and Stripes with a Confederate flag.

Before the siege, the Freemen effectively lived by their own laws, refused to pay federal taxes, spat their distrust at US law enforcers and terrorised the law-abiding res-

idents of the nearby stage post of Jordan, where families split in disagreement and neighbours eyed each other through gun sights.

The Freemen had old West settler names such as Ebert and Agnes, Emmett and Casey, and their number included crack shots and old military hands and former policemen.

One rebel, Rodney Skurdal, 43, was a former Marine who stood guard for Presidents Nixon and Ford. He was said to have become obsessed with constitutional rights after suffering a head injury in a 1983 oilfield accident.

Another Freemen, James "Bo" Gritz, was a former Green Berets colonel, and the group was said to have a well-stocked arsenal inside the compound which the group's members had "sworn to God" they would not leave.

Towards the end of the stand-off there were signs that the FBI's patience was starting to wear thin. Agents cut power and telephone lines to the 960-acre ranch, and armoured vehicles were moved close while the media was shooed away to a distant vantage point. The Freemen were reduced to using generators, and by the end of the siege had fuel for only two hours of electricity a day.

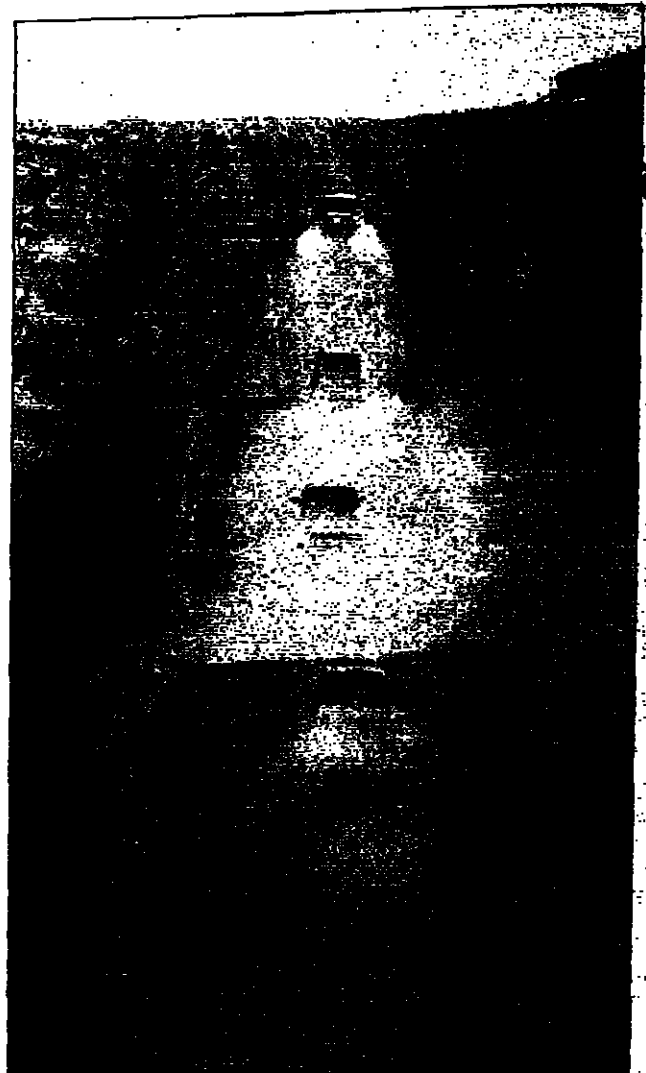
In the final negotiations, the Freemen were allowed to summon a rental van which they slowly loaded with documents that they said would be used in court.

The final hours of the stand-off, observed through a dusty shimmer of summer heat, were given a tension with the rumour that some of the Freemen were having second doubts about turning themselves in to the hated "feds".

The stand-off began on March 25, when FBI agents arrested the group's leaders, LeRoy Schweitzer and Daniel Petersen, on suspicion of fraud. At that point there were about 27 people at the ranch, including children, but during the siege they gradually left Justus Township.

The final breakthrough came this week, when officials allowed one of the Freemen elders, Edwin Clark, to visit Schweitzer in jail in Billings and receive his permission for a surrender.

The Freemen now face humbling spells in prison while their trials are organised. The success of the federal state was reinforced when, at the end of a frustrating three months, an FBI agent walked triumphantly up to Sentry Hill and took pleasure in tearing down the Freemen's last symbol: the defiant Confederate flag.



Biting the dust: a convoy of FBI vans carries the Freemen to Billings after the 81-day stand-off

THE TIMES

Senate committee calls for evidence from First Lady

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

FOR the first time in their 14-month Whitewater investigation, Republican senators have demanded that Hillary Clinton should give sworn evidence about her involvement in a questionable Arkansas land deal.

The day after it emerged that the Senate Whitewater committee is expected next week to name Mrs Clinton as its only suspect in the mysterious disappearance of her legal accounts, the senators cited new evidence which made it necessary for her to give evidence under oath.

Her subpoenaed records, which vanished in 1994 and surfaced in the private quarters at the White House last summer, have long been the focus for Republicans in Congress who believe they may place the First Lady a step closer to a group of Clinton associates recently convicted of fraud.

A former executive of Madison Guaranty, the corrupt Arkansas bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair, told investigators this week that in 1986 he had warned Mrs Clinton about the impropriety of a transaction for which she was drafting legal work, but she had neglected his advice.

Don Denton, a former loan officer at Madison, said he had alerted Mrs Clinton to "problems" concerning the bank's dealings with Seth Ward, an Arkansas businessman, and a tract of land known as Castle Grande.

A summary of the investigators' interview with Mr Denton released yesterday said: "He said his caution was summarily dismissed by Clinton in a manner which he took to mean that he was to take care of savings and loan matters and she would take care of legal matters."

Mr Ward and the Castle Grande deal were matters that came to light only when Mrs Clinton's billing records were found in the book room next to her private office and handed to the congressional inquiry in

January. Senator Alfonse D'Amato, chairman of the Senate panel, said Mr Denton's interview amounted to "important new evidence that sheds light on the nature and extent of Mrs Clinton's work". The committee has demanded of her private lawyer that the First Lady should provide sworn, written evidence before the Senate finishes its inquiry next week.

The new information is said to involve a property option agreement between Madison and Mr Ward which some investigators have alleged was merely a device used to conceal fraudulent deals from regulators.

Mark Fabiani, a White House lawyer, denounced the senators' request for evidence, which he said Mrs Clinton had offered previously. "This is an act of utter, complete desperation by Senator D'Amato's failed Whitewater committee," he said. Nevertheless Mr Denton's allegation that Mrs Clinton may have understood the deal to be dubious could involve her and others being investigated in complex legal ramifications. The White House's failure to hand over her billing records has been examined for some time as a possible obstruction of justice, but previously there appeared little reason for their concealment in the first place.



Hillary Clinton: records vanished then reappeared

Radiation plot to kill rightwingers foiled

BY QUENTIN LETTS

TWO men plotted to kill right-wing politicians by sprinkling radioactive material on their food and contaminating their cars with radium isotopes, New York police said.

Prosecutors described the alleged murder plot as bizarre and "like something out of a novel" after Geiger counters, gas masks and supplies of low-level radioactive radium were found at the Long Island home of John Ford, a former court officer.

Mr Ford, 47, allegedly intended to kill prominent Republican Party officials in and around New York's Suffolk County, including the local party chairman. The area is the political citadel of Alfonse D'Amato, the pugnacious senator who heads the Whitewater inquiry and an ally of Bob Dole, the Republicans' presidential nominee.

Mr Ford and Joseph Mazzacchi, 42, were charged

with second degree conspiracy after five canisters of radioactive material were found, with mine detectors, guns and ammunition. Police officers searched the premises after a tip-off from an informer.

James Catterson, the district attorney, said the arrested men were "so obsessed with hatred for mainstream political figures" that they planned to "spread radioactive material in the seat of a victim's car, in his food or in some proximity to him in the hope that he would contract an incurable disease that would cause his death". It was not known where they had got the idea, but it smacked of cheap science fiction.

Mr Catterson added: "Any potential threat to public health and safety has been eliminated. The material has been removed to a facility capable of its proper disposal."

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(LOCAL TOP MON TO FRI)

Free travel backed in Paris purge on pollution

By BEN MACINTYRE

FRENCH deputies yesterday voted to provide free public transport when urban air pollution reaches dangerous levels, overriding government objections that such a radical measure would increase costs for travellers.

The move to allow free travel on trains, the Metro and buses in order to cut down the use of private cars during excessively smoggy days was contained in an amendment to a clean air Bill.

The amendment passed unanimously, but did not state how the project would be financed. The Bill contains no provision for new taxes.

Corinne Lepage, the Environment Minister, had argued against the amendment on the grounds that it would result in increased costs for users of public transport and should be left to local authorities, but she later changed tack and said: "We now support the amendment."

Paris air pollution, among the worst in Europe, reached record levels during last year's public transport strike when millions of city residents took to their cars, covering the city with a thick pall of exhaust fumes.

The clean air law would give local authorities the right to restrict, and even suspend, traffic when pollution reaches certain levels. MPs also voted to grant parking privileges to vehicles which cause the least pollution.

Various projects are already under consideration to improve air quality in Paris, including laying out miles of routes reserved for cyclists, rollerbladers and pedestrians and another to blow the smog from the streets with thousands of small fans.

The Government last month unveiled plans to reduce air pollution throughout the country by tightening controls on vehicle emissions, discouraging diesel-powered cars and forcing drivers to skirt congested areas.

Among the deputies lobbying for the measure was Jean Théri, the Mayor of Paris, who said he was very satisfied with the vote.

End of line for French rail romance

FROM BEN MACINTYRE ON THE LIGNE DES CAUSSES BETWEEN CLERMONT-FERRAND AND BEZIERS

The single-track railway line that winds its way from Clermont-Ferrand in the heart of France to Béziers near the Mediterranean is a fading remnant of travel from another era: slow, unprofitable, spectacularly beautiful and, in the present economic climate, probably doomed to extinction.

Once a day, the train still potters across the Massif Central through 200 miles of breathtaking scenery, clinging to the mountainside, picking up the occasional passenger and losing millions of francs along the way.

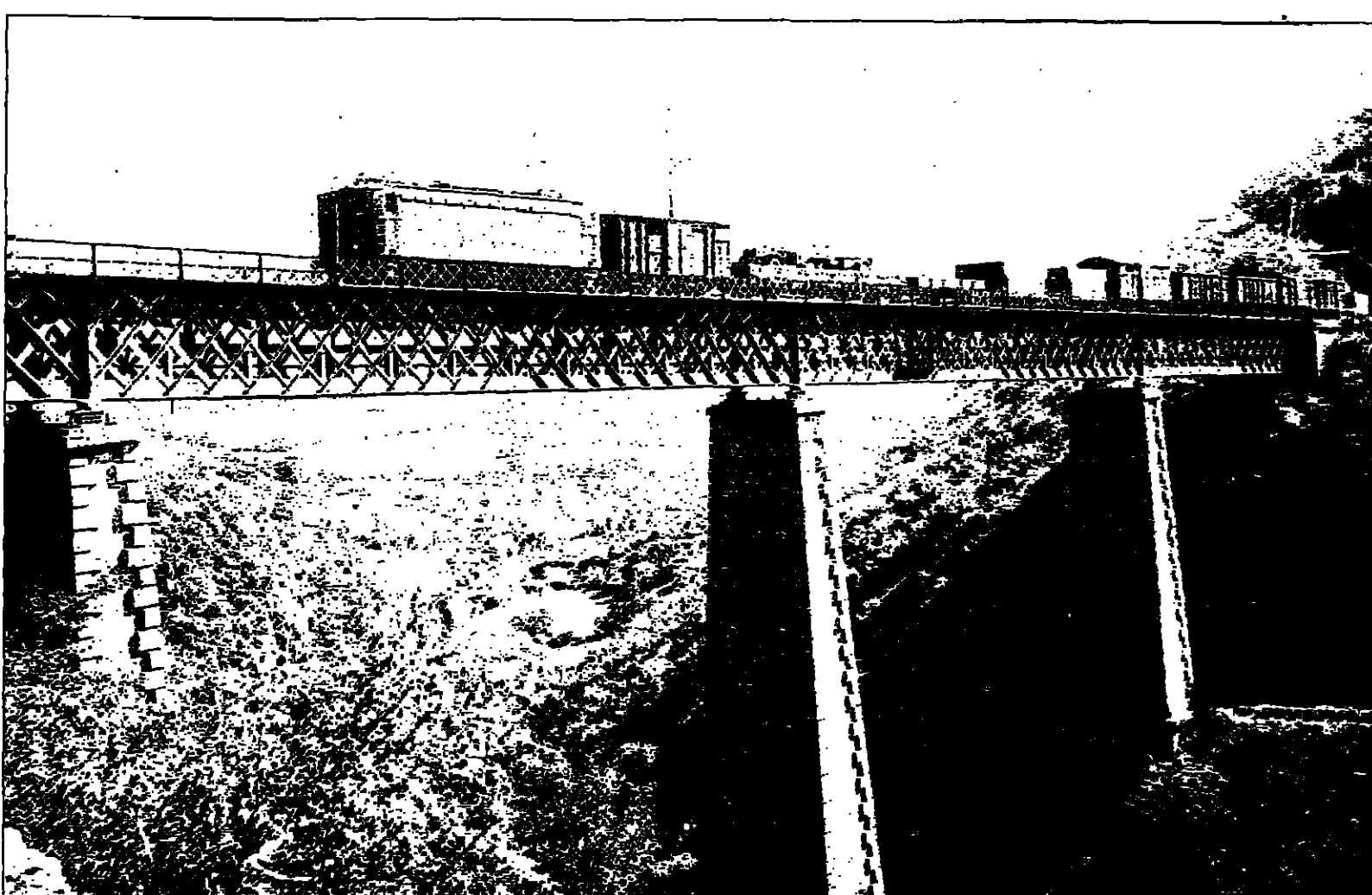
This week the French parliament began debating the future of the state-owned Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer (SNCF), as the French Government unveiled plans to take on more than half the company's Fr206 billion (£27 billion) debt and place responsibility for running local lines in the hands of regional authorities.

The Government claims the long-awaited restructuring will force the SNCF to balance its accounts, but for the Clermont-Ferrand to Béziers railway and hundreds like it, the new plan may spell the end of the line.

"La Ligne des Causse" as it is called after the limestone plateaux it traverses, is a remarkable feat of engineering. Seldom exceeding a state-ly 40 miles an hour, the line trundles past mountains and rivers, through fields and forests virtually untouched since the track was first laid, and across stomach-lurching bridges such as the enormous Garabit viaduct, built between 1882 and 1884 by Gustav Eiffel himself.

Most of the stations along the way have already closed, leaving their platforms sun-cracked and sprouting wild flowers. At Neussargues, once an important stop where fresh-baked baguettes were laid out on crisp white tablecloths to greet the scores of passengers arriving on the overnight train from Paris, a single elderly man boards with fishing rod in hand, planning a day on the river at the next stop. Once he could have caught another train home. Now his daughter must drive to collect him.

As inefficient as it is picturesque, the train simply cannot



A freight train crosses one of the breathtaking viaducts that characterise the picturesque but unprofitable single-track "Ligne des Causse"

compete with the new motorway, which whisks travellers to Béziers in almost half the time. To judge from the few passengers on board this week, the train is strictly for those with time on their hands — a few local farmers, some German tourists, a couple of youths returning from military service, and a teacher who gets car-sick.

"We cater for the very old, the young, people without vehicles, locals," remarks Gaston Larère, the ticket-collector and portly ten-year veteran of the line. He is a third-generation chemist who might have sprung from some bucolic vision of "La France Profonde".

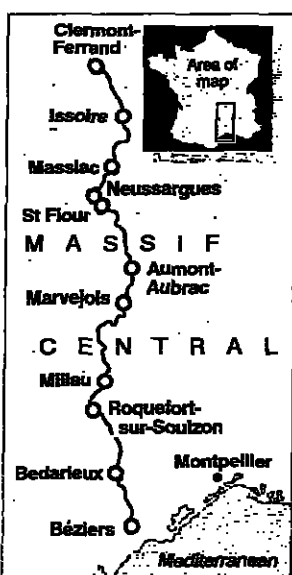
He says: "In the winter, when we have to put the snow-plough on to get through the mountains, we're lucky to get a dozen passengers on the whole train."

This line is not the least profitable in France — that dubious honour goes to the

tiny Auxerre to Étang line, which costs Fr45 million a year to run and carries eight passengers a day. Like so many rural routes, it is hopelessly expensive to maintain at a time when the SNCF's debt is equivalent to the entire social security deficit and the Government is desperately seeking to cut costs to meet the criteria for European monetary union.

The French public, which retains a nostalgic love of train travel even if the majority now use other means of transport, would never stand for the sort of radical surgery meted out to Britain's railways by Richard Beeching in 1963. Instead the extremities of the French rail system will probably wither away gradually, as penny-conscious and cash-strapped regional authorities take an unromantic look at the bottom line.

Six regions have been made responsible for setting their rail priorities, but eventually the system is expected to spread throughout France.



That, say critics, is the thin end of the wedge of privatisation, and a death-knell for the smaller lines. Unlike last autumn when a planned SNCF overhaul prompted the worst strikes for a decade, most of the 180,000-strong workforce

has responded positively to the plans announced this week, implicitly accepting that the price of the Government stepping in to take over Fr125 billion of debt will be the erosion of "non-essential", loss-making routes.

As we made our way across the shimmering fields of Languedoc, M Larère was sanguine. "They won't get us first. At least we go from somewhere to somewhere. And we have the viaduct: that's a national monument. In the summer we get a lot of tourists, which helps."

Others were less confident. "This train has never been profitable, never," insists Anne-Marie Biret, recalling her first journey on the line to visit country cousins in 1923, an annual event ever since. "If they close it down, I suppose I'll have to take a bus, or stay at home," she said.

Over the past two decades the popularity of train travel in France has steadily declined to the point where the

SNCF handles less than a quarter of total passenger traffic and just 8 per cent of freight haulage. Later this month Loïc Le Floch-Prigent, the new SNCF head, will outline his plans to make the company profitable again, but these are likely to concentrate on recouping investment in the high-speed TGV lines rather than trying to wring profit out of quaint regional tracks.

This was once one of the country's busiest lines, and one of the smelliest. For it was at Roquefort-sur-Soulzon, according to legend, that a shepherd once left his lunch-time lump of ewe's cheese in a cave and accidentally discovered *Penicillium roqueforti*, and Roquefort cheese.

Tonnes of Roquefort were once carried by rail to the dining tables of the north. Now the region's most famous export goes by road, and the railway itself has become little more than a piquant delicacy for travel connoisseurs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wartime massacre officers 'told to lie'

Rome: A military court trying a former SS captain for his role in a Second World War massacre of civilians listened yesterday to a 1974 recorded interview with his commander. In it Colonel Herbert Kappler said he told his men to lie to escape prosecution.

Erich Priebke, 62, on trial for his part in the 1944 Rome massacre of 335 civilians, has said in his defence that he would have been killed had he refused to obey the colonel's orders. The massacre was to avenge the death of 32 Nazi troops by resistance fighters.

Kappler, who was jailed for life in 1948, died in 1978. In the interview, he said he told officers to contend they would have been executed themselves if they had not obeyed him. (AP)

Note for judge on heroin haul

Madrid: Spanish police who seized 266lb of Turkish heroin found it packed in plastic bags carrying the misspelt name of a senior judge. *El País* newspaper said. The message on the packages read "This is best for your health, Balazar Garçon", a misspelt reference to Baltasar Garçon, who gained fame with a series of sweeps against Galician trafficking rings. Three people were arrested. (Reuters)

Lame duck

Berlin: A court here extended by 15 months the jail sentence of Arno Funke, 46, an extortionist who adopted the name of Donald Duck's miserly Uncle Scrooge. He outwitted police for two years after blackmailing a department store chain for about £600,000, and was finally arrested in 1994. (Reuters)

Cover story

Toulouse: Weary of tourists' limp jokes, the small town of Condom in southwest France plans a museum of male contraceptives. About 1,300 items have already been collected for the museum, which is due to open in 2000 with official support. (Reuters)

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Political leaders — and the city of Florence — seek to shine for forthcoming EU summit

Steel King's daughter set to be Italy's iron lady

ROMANO PRODI, the mild-mannered left-wing Italian Prime Minister, sets out next week to impress fellow EU leaders at the Florence summit, starting on Friday, with his plans for putting the Italian economy in order so the lira can join the single currency.

He has support from an unexpected source: a forceful 30-year-old woman with lustrous shoulder-length black curls, short pleated skirts and high heels who has forced her way into the male-dominated Italian business world to speak for the rising generation of Italian industrialists.

Emma Marcegaglia is not the most likely supporter of the centre-left "Olive Tree" Government: she comes from a family of rich entrepreneurs (her father, Sieno, is the "Steel King" of Italy) and went to business school in Milan and New York. When she was 24 her father handed her Albarolo, an island tourist resort in the Venetian lagoon

ROME FILE by RICHARD OWEN



that had two hotels and ten restaurants but was losing money badly. He challenged her to turn it round. She did, making it a money-spinner.

But since her election in April as head of the Young Industrialists' Association — part of Confindustria, Italy's CBI — she has been clear-eyed about what needs to be done in Italy, and much of it coincides with the thinking of the leftwingers who dominate the Prodi administration, balancing privatisation with streamlining of the bloated state sector to cut both inflation and the public deficit and meet Maastricht targets. "We have to reform the public

sector, make it more efficient, sack unproductive workers," she told the Confindustria annual conference this month in the Riviera resort of Santa Margherita Ligure. "We need Europe and Europe needs us."

She welcomed Italy's "return to real government" after a series of interim administrations following the collapse of the Christian Democrats in 1992. She travels economy class and, despite her silver-spoon background, went to the local school in her home town, Mantua. Her association, she says, is not a "club for rich yuppies" (the 8,500 members are all under 40)

but "the critical conscience of Italian industry".

On the other hand, Signorina Marcegaglia emphasises she has no political allegiance, and has (so far) resisted approaches from the Centre-Right and the Centre-Left to enter politics. She thinks businessmen are naturally conservative, regards left-wing promises of tax cuts as "demagogic", and constantly reminds Signor Prodi that it is "business — especially small business, family business — which drives the economy". Firms need "fiscal incentives", not lectures.

Her main problem, she says, is staying "feminine" while coping with star status and running her father's steel products business, with 3,000 employees. She wears Moschino suits, works out for 20 minutes before bed, has a constant sun tan and tends to remove her jewellery, but rather severe, glasses when surrounded by photographers, which is most of the time.

"At the start I had to show enormous determination and wear a mask of hardness," she says. On the day of her inauguration all her jewellery — £20,000 worth — was stolen from her hotel room. As the news spread, Signorina Marcegaglia stayed calm and walked into Confindustria headquarters near the Via Veneto with an aplomb that won her a standing ovation, led by Cesare Romiti, the head of Fiat.

Hologram helps to stop fake fashions

AS EUROPE'S leaders will discover when they arrive in Florence next week, many art treasures have been restored, the city has been spruced up for its international visitors and new ticketing systems are being introduced to help solve the problem of channelling vast numbers of tourists through the museums.

But Florence, like Rome, Milan and other great Italian cities, is still plagued by one apparently insoluble problem: the unauthorised street traders who deal in fake designer luggage, sunglasses and handbags. Last month alone the police seized a million fake fashion items throughout Italy, some from pavement traders and some perhaps more disturbingly — from expensive boutiques.

The fashion industry has come up with a new idea to prevent counterfeiting: an "unfakeable" hologram, of the kind used on credit cards, which would form part of a genuine designer label. The police say the counterfeiting business is worth millions of pounds and fashion houses reckon they lose 40 per cent of potential sales through fakes, many indistinguishable (to the average eye) from the real thing. Leading designers, including Versace and Dolce & Gabbana, have joined forces to pioneer the hologram — a "made in Italy" logo.



Emma Marcegaglia may have been born with a silver spoon but in the world of big business she has proved she has the hallmark of success

Whizz kids roll up for the Circus

Rollerblades are as common in Italian parks and streets as anywhere else in Europe. But Rome is going one stage further and holding what it claims is the first skaters' marathon.

At the end of the month competitors will whizz — maximum speed 13kph (8mph) — down the Tiber embankment, round the Colosseum and the

Circus Maximus, where chariot races were once run, and then round the Piazza Navona — also a race track in ancient Rome, but now full of fountains and outdoor cafes.

Ten thousand "rollerfjans", as Italians call them, are expected to take part, covering 42 kilometres (26 miles) in all. The organisers say about a thousand participants will

be "professionals", not only from Italy and Europe but Latin America and the United States. "Amateurs" need only complete 23 kilometres, and there is a special 4-kilometre children's circuit.

Francesco Rutelli, the Mayor, hopes the marathon will boost his campaign to bring the Olympic Games to Rome in 2004.

Gangs target car-hire tourists

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

BANDS of robbers, armed with knives, who target tourists in hire cars have turned Madrid's Barajas airport into one of the most dangerous in Europe.

The gangs, mostly Peruvians, Chileans and Algerians, operate on nearby roads. Press critics of the failure by police to stop the attacks say there is now an assault every 48 minutes.

Usually, one of the gang loiters near a car rental office to identify foreigners. Having selected a quarry, he telephones colleagues waiting at the airport exit.

The unsuspecting driver leaving Barajas is followed. At the first traffic-light, an accomplice punctures one of his tyres, and the tourist is offered help by the robbers in the car behind.

The victim is then stripped at knife-point of his passport and valuables. "It's not like

Miami, where they shoot tourists at red lights," said an attendant at a car rental office, "but it is still very frightening."

Airport authorities have asked police to tackle the problem on "a war footing". The Spanish federation of car rental businesses, Feneval, is also urging police vigilance.

A police spokesman conceded in a press interview that "We may soon have to start escorting tourists to their hotels."

Bosnian worries fail to stop go-ahead for poll

BY RICHARD OWEN

ELECTIONS in Bosnia appear certain to go ahead by September 14 after the American official responsible for organising them yesterday recommended they be held "despite existing obstacles".

Robert Frowick, head of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation (OSCE) mission to Bosnia, told the closing session of the 40-nation conference in Florence reviewing the Dayton peace accord: "It will be possible to organise reasonably effective elections in keeping with international practices of eligibility, access, participation and transparency — elections which can reflect the will of the people".

The Bosnian Muslims protested last night, with Mohamed Sacirbey, the Bosnian Ambassador to the UN, saying that, "if elections are

held under current conditions, the consequences would be even worse than not holding elections". He said free elections were inconceivable as long as "war criminals" such as Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, were free. "Either the elections or war criminals are free," he said.

Flavio Cotti, the Swiss For-

eign Minister and current chairman of the OSCE, whose approval is needed for elections to be held, said he would go to Sarajevo for a "final on-site inspection" and announce his decision by the end of the month.

Carl Bildt, peace envoy to Bosnia, agreed the vote should go ahead despite the "many imperfections", including lack of a free press and television and failure to resettle refugees. Mr Bildt said "minimum conditions" had been met, including the integrity and secrecy of the vote under international supervision.

Lamberto Dini, the Italian Foreign Minister, who chaired the meeting, announced agreement on conventional arms limitations in the region. He said the agreement, which should have been signed in Oslo last week, would help to bring stability to the Balkans.



Bildt: feels vote should be held in September

Norwegians claim Fiennes record

BY KYLE SMITH

A PAIR of Norwegians claimed yesterday to have broken Sir Ranulph Fiennes's record for the longest unsupported polar expedition, but Sir Ranulph said his mark was safe.

Rune Gjeldnes and Torry Larsen, both 24, were said by their sponsors to have set the record on Thursday at the end of a 3,000-mile trip from the southern tip of Greenland to its northern end.

Sir Ranulph, the Old Etonian and former SAS officer who along with Dr Mark Stroud nearly died while setting the previous record of 1,350 miles on an Antarctic hike in 1992-93, said the new claim was not comparable to his Guinness-sanctioned record because it took place in what he called "tropical Greenland", the southern tip of which is not in the polar

region. A spokeswoman for the Guinness Book of World Records said it was not clear whether a record had been set. The editor is normally apprised of attempts to break records beforehand but was not informed this time.

Sir Ranulph and Dr Stroud hold the records for the longest unsupported Antarctic trek and for the longest self-supported polar sledge trip.

The Norwegians, who trained as navy commandos, were awaiting an aircraft pickup in Greenland. They began their journey by parachuting on to a glacier on the south coast of Greenland on March 19. They had 1,320 lb of supplies with them on two sledges. "The long journey across the inland ice was delayed in the first weeks by strong winds," their sponsors said.

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■ CHOICE

From the Van Morrison concert to the top events for children: the best shows are in Weekend, page 12

■ ON MONDAY

Should lottery money be used to refurbish theatres designed for the Victorian era?

The more it rains the more we clap

They say that prowess at snooker is a sure sign of a mispent youth. They may be right. But I will give you another sign: an intimate familiarity with the handstands of north London. Yes, readers, the peculiar truth is that I spent the Sunday afternoons of my formative years playing second trombone in a brass band that toured local parks.

Even today, their names trigger strange memories: Parliament Hill Fields, where our cornet section withstood a ferocious attack by a swarm of philistine midges during the *William Tell* Overture; Stoke Newington's acclaimed Clissold Park (a name that richly amused us teenage trombonists); Golders Hill Park in Golders Green (Wagner extracts not encouraged); Waterlow Park in Highgate (luscious au pairs; delinquent toddlers).

Just occasionally the sun would shine, and our merry strains of Sousa would serenade large crowds sprawled in deckchairs. Mostly, however, those Sundays

seemed to be cold and wet. But the rule was inflexible: the band couldn't claim its fee unless it stayed put until 5pm. The London County Council was reputed to employ an inspector whose special skill was to dart from tree to tree in rainswept parks, so that he could creep up on bands and check they were playing with proper huff and puff — even when battered by a Force 10 from Enfield.

All this was a useful, if surreal, training for life's vicissitudes. Few people can claim to have missed the vital trombone entry in Beethoven's *Egmont* overture because a sudden gust blew their music into a pond of flamingos. Fewer still know what sound a tuba makes when its player topples backwards into a flowerbed. These sort of experiences shape a chap's character, to say nothing of his vertebrae. The taste for all fresco entertain-

ment has never left me. And in Britain we do it better than anywhere else. "But you don't have the climate for it!" shriek foreign friends. Rubbish. It is precisely because we don't have the climate for it that we enjoy ourselves so much. Let the wimps go to Aix-en-Provence or the Verona Arena if they want outdoor concerts in climates resembling the interior of a boiling kettle. In Britain, the more it rains the more we clap. This current burst of unseasonal warmth is just what the average intrepid outdoor concertgoer doesn't want. The lower the temperature, the higher our spirits.

I was at Glyndebourne two weeks ago on an evening when even grown sheep shivered. Yet everywhere the picnics went ahead as normal, as though it were the most natural thing in the world for women wearing sumptuous silken



RICHARD MORRISON

gowns to drape themselves in old blankets and tuck into chicken legs on a sopping wet lawn. Only the British could enjoy themselves so boisterously in such unpromising circumstances. As Noël Coward

probably should have written: "Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the evening drizzle."

Remember Pavarotti's concert in Hyde Park? Biggest summer downpour in living memory, yet 100,000 people couldn't get enough of it. Harvey Goldsmith will surely be praying for snow on June 29 when he mounts his monster pop concert in Hyde Park. And if he can reduce the public conveniences to a single apparatus that does not flush properly, so much the better! Thousands will reminisce ecstatically about the great day for the rest of their lives.

What is the most bracing of our outdoor entertainments? For sheer, unrelenting, storm-force winds, try the gallant little Minack Theatre, perched on a Cornish cliff near Land's End. For temperatures that freeze the blood and numb the buttocks, the Edinburgh

Military Tattoo — held every August (until the British Army sacks all its pipers, that is) — takes some beating. "Tell me," said an American sitting next to me one year, "is it summer or winter in Europe at present?" For daftness, and the occasional gratifying drowning, nothing rivals the spectacle of Cambridge undergraduates singing madrigals in punts.

But the best outdoor spectacle is surely the one that begins tonight: the concert season by the lake at Kenwood, that genteel Regency landscape tucked alongside Hampstead Heath. Musically, the experience always leaves something to be desired. But you don't go to Kenwood for the music; you go to participate in one of Britain's great rites of social bonding. Many a marriage of true minds has been formed (if not

quite consummated) in a sleeping bag on that damp hillside while the strains of the *New World Symphony* jostle gently with the drone of passing jumbos. Many a potential business client has been wooed over the chianti and pâté while Tchaikovsky's *1812* ricochets off Highgate hills and Hampstead dales.

Our little brass band never aspired to the grand heights of an engagement at Kenwood. But the ethos of the British bandstand is surely much the same wherever you are. Bright and breezy, free and easy: the very essence of the British at play.

So if you happen to be in a park tomorrow, and *The Entry of the Clergymen* comes rolling over the rhododendrons like a Sherman tank, do stop and listen, won't you? And if the second trombonist's music suddenly gets blown in your direction, try to rescue it before it lands in the flamingo pool. Pond water does play havoc with key-signatures. At least, that was my excuse 25 years ago.

Summer's biggest bash

John Allison meets John Rockwell, director of New York's lavish and innovative new summer festival



No holes in their Beckett: as well as *Waiting for Godot*, Dublin's Gate Theatre will put on the other 18 Samuel Beckett plays at the summer festival at Lincoln Centre

It is a strange phenomenon. In the cash-strapped arts scene here and throughout Europe, the summer festival — from the great annual gathering in Edinburgh to "niche" events such as the comic-book celebration held at Angoulême in France — is a flourishing institution. Across the Atlantic the situation is very different, but it is not only the comparative dearth of festivals there that makes this summer's happenings in New York of outstanding interest. For three weeks from July 22 the Lincoln Centre Festival 96 will stage an innovative programme of classic and contemporary arts to rival any festival anywhere.

Beethoven on period instruments contrasts with Japanese court *gagaku* music, a wickedly satirical version of *Coppelia* plays alongside Vietnamese water puppets, a mini-festival features Dublin's Gate Theatre in all 19 of Samuel Beckett's plays and the Theatre de Complicité brings its *Three Lives of Lucie Cabrol*. The only thing these attractions have in common is that they all reflect the eclectic tastes of the festival director, John Rockwell. He came home to the job from his post as European cultural correspondent of *The New York Times*: "I wasn't fleeing something I didn't like. But to be offered in one's middle years a chance to do something as different as this, on this scale, and in the centre of New York — it would have been inconceivable to turn it down."

In the course of his long journalistic career, Rockwell attended countless festivals, and the experience has not been unhelpful. "What I brought to the party was not

vast expertise in arts administration but a pretty solid knowledge of what was going on in the world of festivals, the various models around, as well as knowing many festival directors — I'd interviewed a lot of them. But one can't cruise through entirely on bravado. I was a little nonplussed by the financial side — at board-level meetings I felt like a shepherd watching Jove playing in the sky above Mt Olympus — so both as protection of myself and Lincoln Centre we hired a consultant."

By "Lincoln Centre", he means Lincoln Centre for the Performing Arts, Inc, an un-

wieldy organisation that manages the real estate occupied by such big names as the Metropolitan Opera and Juilliard School, and which has acted as the engine of urban renewal on the site where the *Sharks* and *Jets* of *West Side Story* fame once roamed. As a managing landlord, Lincoln Centre has long been filling out-of-season gaps when its constituent companies have not been performing with such festivals as *Mostly Mozart* and *Serious Fun*. Indeed, there were Lincoln Centre Festivals in 1967 and 1968 directed by the composer William Schuman,

but this year's undertaking is emphatically "new". When Rockwell was brought in two years ago, the structures were in place, but he was given a virtually free artistic hand. "Deals had been cut to have the New York Philharmonic appear, and with Gergiev and the Kirov Orchestra. But the programmes were mine. There's no overarching theme, but a lot of subsurface connections. When ideas came along I would try to think of ways to sync them up with other interesting things. So when we decided that, besides doing epic works composed for offi-

cial Soviet occasions, the Kirov would perform Berlioz's *Roméo et Juliette*, I got Masur to do other works inspired by the story. And the New York Phil's *Fidelio* will tie in with John Eliot Gardiner's *Leonore*."

Visits by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and Houston Grand Opera (en route to Edinburgh) with Virgil Thomson's *Four Saints in Three Acts*, a celebration of Morton Feldman, programmes devoted to gospel and soul music and a clutch of premieres seem to reflect the manifesto Rockwell laid out in his book, *All-American Music*. "I'm interested in cultural collisions, as opposed to a neo-conservative defence of European culture of the dead persuasion. Some of the most interesting art that's being made today comes from the clash of cultures. These juxtapositions don't have to result in a lowest common denominator kind of fusion; they can reflect excitement and energy. With its cultures that may not clash but remain tensely apart, New York is the right place for Rockwell's festival."

● Lincoln Centre Festival 96 runs from July 22 to August 11. Information: +1 (212) 875-5030. Booking: +1 (212) 721-6500

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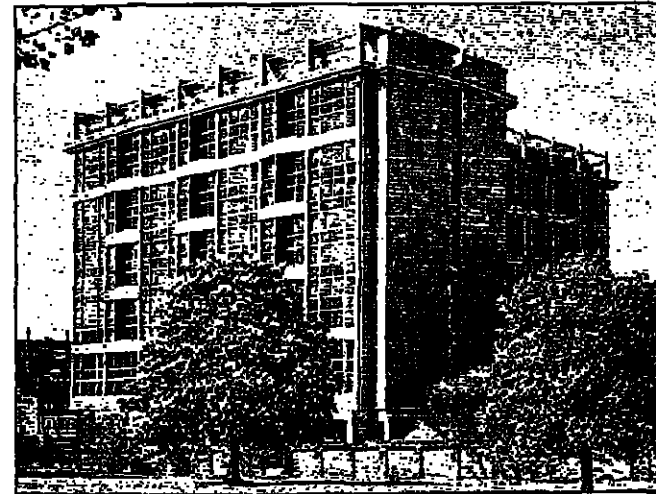
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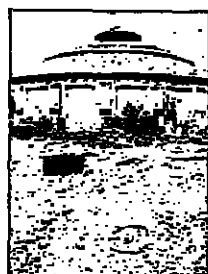
Denis Quilley commands the revels as *The Tempest* goes al fresco in Regent's Park



THEATRE 2

... while Mike Alfreds searches for method and madness in *Jude the Obscure* at Hammersmith

THE TIMES ARTS



BASE NOTES

Back in business: the Roundhouse will rock again to the sound of Elvis Costello and the Attractions



BASE NOTES

Stepping into her mother's role: Natasha Richardson to sing *Guinevere* in *Camelot*?

THEATRE: Denis Quilley rules in the open air; little return from Hardy work; one man and his dogma

Calm seas as Prospero voyages

Does that admirable director Patrick Garland not know which is the stage and which the stalls? For a moment it seems he does not. Tars in tarpaulins rush through the audience carrying nautical-looking equipment. They hail one another from, roughly, seat G10 to seat M30, and then disappear through an opening marked "Exit". Meanwhile, young people in cream slacks stand on Simon Hughes's set, pumping wind-machines and creating rain noises by shaking rice in sieves. The back-stage staff is where the actors usually go, the actors are where the spectators should be, and the spectators don't know where we are.

But we need not have worried. The rest of the evening passes in the right place and (if you overlook the moment when Juno, Iris and Ceres start behaving like the Three Little Maids from School) in the right way. If Garland does not give us the subtlest, most exciting *Tempest* I have seen, his production is perfectly decent and sometimes more than that. In Denis Quilley he has a Prospero with the power and charisma to raise all kinds of spirits: ours in the audience as well as those who flit about singing "where the bee sucks, there suck I".

I cannot fully explain Simon Hignett's set, a grand 18th-century library which appears to have been first hit by an earthquake and then, to judge by the sails and rigging draped over its walls, invaded by fishermen. The simple tree-flanked sword that comes gratis with the

The Tempest Regent's Park

the Shelleys clutched desperately at any signs of post-Napoleonic liberalisation: radical reform in Britain, a rebellion in Greece, revolution in Spain. And so he goes on, claiming that almost everyone in the play "craves some kind of freedom at one time or another — the very word 'freedom' is endlessly spoken or sung".

If Garland had gone all out to make the play a parable about colonialism, as Jonathan Miller has twice done, there might be some relevance to this. But he doesn't. Ariel has not been transformed into Jomo Kenyatta with a fly-whisk, as he was in one Miller revival, nor has he anything in common with the scowling, resentful helot Simon Russell Beale played for the RSC two years ago. Instead, he is a she, and she is Ellen O'Grady, a strong, self-sufficient figure dressed in elegant purple and exuding little rebelliousness and less anger.

Indeed, there is nothing in Garland's revival calculated to push the play in the direction his pro-



Ellen O'Grady, "a strong, self-sufficient figure as Ariel", in a scene with the "majestic, munificent" Prospero provided by Denis Quilley

gramme-note suggests he wants it to go. This may disappoint those who crave "conceptual" productions, but will be fine by most people, especially as it does not trap Quilley in the kind of performance he would not want to give. His Prospero is not the

grumpy old tyrant some actors have made him, but a majestic, munificent figure who takes sensuous pride in having dimmed noontide suns and made promontories shake. If he brings a little regret to the line about abjuring power, it is because

he will miss performing wonders, not pushing lesser beings around. Although I liked Chook Sibtain's sensitive yet sturdy Ferdinand, Christopher Biggins's flabby Stephano, and David Caray's chimney-sweep Caliban, who first app-

ears black-faced and white-eyed from the library hearth, his is the evening's performance. It left me feeling we see too little of Quilley on the stage, and wanting to see more.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Half Hardy and wholly foolish

Mike Alfreds's new touring company will have to be called *Method & Madness* in this column because my word processor's capacity to process does not extend to turning letters back to front. Alfreds has held a mirror against two of the words so that they read something like "ssendam &". The closest mine can get to it, and possibly his company's true name is *Madness & Method*.

You will note that what is reversed is the madness, suggesting that Alfreds intends to hold the wilder reaches of the mind up for inspection, and this could be what he is doing with Thomas Hardy's last novel, though surely not with

the second play in the repertoire, Noel Coward's *Private Lives*.

A thematic link does connect these two plays. In *Jude the Obscure* two married couples divorce and two of the severed partners pretend to marry each other; then they part and remarry their first mates. In the Coward a divorced couple famously meet up on the balcony of a honeymoon hotel and abandon their other halves to shack up again with each other. The press release reveals no more about Philip Osment's *Flesh and Blood*, play number three in the repertoire, except that it is set among farming folk in

Jude the Obscure Lyric, Hammersmith

north Devon. Expect wife-swapping in Woolacombe.

And so to poor Jude, grinding away at theology on his baker's round in the hope of becoming a student at Christminster, caught by Arabella, scheming daughter of a pig-butcher, ludicrously entangled with his cousin Sue, the frigid flirt. Like other long novels — this one is 500 Penguin pages — the rigmarole of shifting feelings begins to seem plausible as chapter follows chapter, but on the stage the characters become mere functions of a plot. An arbitrary plot, what is more, for compression must do its deaden work, and as Gide remarked, "everything that cannot be of use encumbers".

The company of four work tremendously hard, no doubt

about that, playing the four main characters and, generally, with backs turned, various interlocutors. Dressed in black, they move on a black stage, although a white screen across the back gives the illusory hope of happiness beyond the confines. The cast even manipulate a trail-faced puppet representing both the young Jude and his despairing son. But the mere story nowadays comes across as foolishness. Jude (swarthy Martin Marquez) is meekly submissive to his women's whims, without our being shown why this should be: the sexual squeamishness of Sue (Geraldine Alexander), coupled with her hysterical demands, now looks pathological. "The last and greatest of Hardy's heroines," says the Penguin blurb. Nonsense.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Cape crusader

Truth Omissions Tricycle

could not have killed any themselves, or if some were killed near by they themselves were asleep at the time. Puffing out his cheeks, he

becomes P. W. Botha. On with a silly moustache and he is the Pk one. A purple robe turns him into a tittering Tutu.

After the interval the implacable Mrs Bezuidenhout reappears, to answer questions about her role as confidante to various Bothas and now to Nelson and Winnie. Even sharper satire here, and necessary too when, unbelievably, someone in the gallery clapped at the suggestion that car theft could be reduced by chopping off the fingers of a few thieves.

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BASE NOTES

THE Roundhouse in north London is back in business, but only temporarily. Britain's most famous disused trainshed will be the venue for two concerts by Elvis Costello and the Attractions (July 6, 7), and a short season of gigs by other groups, before it is permanently shut. In its 1960s and 1970s heyday the Roundhouse was the cavernous location of many extraordinary events, from the first European performance by The Doors to avant-garde extravaganzas in the Proms season.

● **HUSBAND** and wife team Natasha Richardson and Liam Neeson are limbering up their lungs in New York with an eye to recording the Lerner and Loewe musical *Camelot*, with Richardson playing the doomed Guinevere previously portrayed on screen by her mother, Vanessa Redgrave. Neeson would play King Arthur, a part taken last week by Paul Nicholas at the Covent Garden Festival.

● **MEANWHILE**, Vanessa Redgrave will star in a feature film of Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway*, due to start shooting on July 23 in London under the direction of Marleen Gorris, a 1996 Oscar-winner for the Dutch film *Antonia's Line*. The screenplay is by Eileen Atkins, Redgrave's co-star on stage in *Vita and Virginia*.

Russia has had five years of politics and seven decades of tyranny. Tomorrow's elections must fill the vacuum, says **Robert Conquest**

A muddle wrapped in a mystery

Attentive *Times* readers are familiar with the vagaries of the Russian election campaign and with the economic and social stresses which dominate it. They have read of the bewildering permutations of alliance, of the hot competition for the vote of the new poor, of the new rich, the nationalists, the industrialists, the military, the new provincial barons. Is it possible, this early, to stand back from all that for anything like an overview?

Well, a first generalisation might be that Russia has not evolved according to the laws of Western economic or political science, and that the future is unpredictable: the outcome, not merely of the election but of the whole crisis it represents, is dangerously dependent on accidental and individual actions. Even within the probable outcome of the election we can only say that Russia's prospects under Yeltsin range from fairly good to fairly bad, under Zyuganov from fairly bad to very bad. And under a possible grand coalition, fairly bad with a chance of getting better or worse depending on the results of its inherent struggle. Meanwhile the reformers, though squeezed as to the vote, remain a force; and a victorious Yeltsin might again have to turn to them for support.

The virtues of the Yeltsin regime, with all its lurches, have in fact been its lack of repression (except in the dreadful case of Chechnia); its general maintenance of free speech; and its avoidance of economic disaster. But if the economy is not doing too badly, it is still vulnerable. The Communist programme, even more the unstated Communist assumptions, probably mean hyperinflation — which could really produce "chaos", a descent into the uncontrollable.

The other day I was saying to a Russian that at least his country had now had five years of real politics. "Not as good as a thousand," he replied. And this lack of political experience has always gone with sectarian inflexibilities. Another Russian commented: "In America the division of powers leads to compromise. In Russia it leads to civil war." Still, none of the three main contenders — Yeltsin, the reformers and mainstream Communists — actually wants civil war. And the power of apathy and exhaustion seems even greater than that of fanaticism and resentment.

— a reasonable hope, rather than a guarantee.

Nevertheless, no country can escape its past. A century ago Chekhov wrote of the weight of Russia's "chilling history, savagery, bureaucracy, poverty, ignorance". And this was many times truer of the Soviet period and its infliction of huge mental distortions on the population, with recovery as yet far from complete. Who would have thought that *Pravda* would now be denying Soviet responsibility for Katyn?

Another characteristic of Russia is pessimism. Half a century ago, Nadezhda Mandelstam, widow of the great poet dead in the Gulag, typically quoted her brother as saying: "In Russia every path always leads to disaster." The mood is widespread today. But there is now a dearth of the countervailing Utopian fantasies. The main candidates are promising a lot of things, but at least they are not promising heaven on earth. The Russian "excess" (*preizvol*) which Ronald Hingley notes in his excellent *The Russian Mind* is

found only on the political periphery. Zhirinovskiy, of course, exemplifies it, and the extreme wing of the Communists hold to the old ideology. But the main effort to fill the "spiritual vacuum" comes in dilute form from the Communists proper. Orwell once said that the most brilliant political invention of the century was "National Socialism", appealing to both the traditional and the Utopian. The new "red-brown" stance of the Russian Communists is based on a similar appeal — to all the icons of the country's past — Orthodoxy and the Tsars, Sovietism and Lenin, involving some of them in the mental feat of being Leninist without being Marxist, and supporting the rebuilding of the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour which the Communists themselves blew up. Zyuganov has just praised Stalin, blaming the Terror — not much of a terror — on non-Russian subordinates, mainly Jews. Unlike Na-

in their attempt to become a "normal" country is the absence of the rule of law. It is indeed, less often noted is the lack of political parties, except for the (by no means monolithic) Communists. Otherwise there are "clans" — alliances between ministers, industrial bosses, bureaucrats, mayors of big cities, local governors and fixers of various types.

Polls show that very few voters regard foreign policy as a major election issue, with both sides claiming the restoration of Russia as a great power. However, about a quarter of the population are concerned to revive the old Soviet Union. And the Communists are committed to restoring it "by peaceful means" but any sort of closer voluntary union would be accepted by other republics only with a post-imperial, non-dominant Russia. So, if "peaceful" means fail...

As to the West, once again apparent contradictions. A large majority of those polled thought not only that people live better in the

West, but also that Western society is more just. At the same time there is widespread fear and resentment of the West as the ruin of Russia — especially among political activists. Will this result in a hostile, expansionist Russia? And would such a Russia be dangerous? We are told that the country is so weak that it could not pose a threat to us. "You are rich, you are poor/You are strong, you are weak/Mother Russia!" — the paradox persists. A state with a myriad nuclear warheads may be weak in many ways but still be a threat. (Smaller, less heavily armed states have proved hard to handle — Iraq, North Korea, North Vietnam.)

No one expects Zyuganov — perhaps not even Zhirinovskiy — to launch a first strike. And Russia does have legitimate area interests. But the far too common notion of Russian chauvinists is that their country gets "respect" by threats and bullying, the stance of adolescent thugs in the West. Russia has won respect in the adult sense as the land of Pushkin, Dostoevsky, Chekhov — and will win broader

respect as the polity itself becomes civilised. This precludes idolatry of the State — the mystic *derzhava* — which is in fact an undisguised slogan of the Communists. The world needs a co-operative Russia. But it must be ready to cope — carefully, cautiously, firmly — with something less satisfactory.

A great test of Russian maturity will be the aftermath of the election. There will be accusations of falsification — not unjustified, with the Communists having the advantage in stuffing the ballot boxes, the Yeltsinists in fixing the count — a problem not unique to Russia, of course. But will the results, in the end, be accepted? And will the losers be allowed to remain in being as members of the body politic? There are many snags yet. But it at least seems possible that in one form or another compromise may, however shakily, at last emerge in Russia. Accompanied, perhaps, sooner or later, by a policy of serious co-operation with the West. This election might be looked back on as a turning point, and the rocky road ahead may not lead to the abyss. But the margin remains narrow. Cross your fingers.

Robert Conquest is the author of *The Great Terror* and many other books on Soviet history.

Thatcher's money isn't Major's business, says **Tim Hames**

Carrying the can for Cash

Conservatives believe in personal freedom and leaving more money in pockets for people to dispense themselves. So said the Prime Minister in his foreword to the Conservative manifesto of 1992. Admittedly, that document — *The Best Future for Britain* — was hardly the gospel truth. The sections on the virtues of the ERM and planned tax reductions look a little threadbare. Never mind. However, despite the occasional difficulty, one thought the general principle that citizens may do anything within the law with their own wallets was fairly well established in Tory circles.

Apparently not, for there is an exception. Individuals have the power, in Mr Major's words then, "to choose, to say for yourself what you want", unless they wish to donate to the European Foundation, a Euro-sceptical think-tank, and its mercurial leading spirit William Cash, MP. Or, at least, that is this week's message.

The Government first attempted to belittle Mr Cash's efforts to force a referendum on the character of the European Union. Kenneth Clarke described it as "gratuitous, without a snowball's chance in Hades of becoming law — thus displaying his acute respect for parliamentary procedure and sovereignty. Such tactics having failed, the Prime Minister attempted to divert attention from the Cash Bill by raising the matter of minute sums of money given to organisations that work with homosexuals and prostitutes. Not the sort of issue that the leader of the Conservative Party would be advised to raise, given the way matters have gone in the last few years. Finally, Mr Cash was publicly carpeted for allowing Sir James Goldsmith to contribute funds to the European Foundation, a fact that has been known for years. This was labelled as treason, because of the possibility that Referendum Party candidates might stand in opposition to Tories at the next election.

The European Foundation

is an independent, all-party company limited by guarantee. Members of all political groupings, or none, may subscribe to the *European Journal* that it produces. This is completely proper. What concept of freedom suggests that its bank balance is subject to ideological audit by the Conservative Chief Whip? Its counterpart, the pro-federalist European Movement, is similarly open for anyone to join. Edwina Currie, MP, serves as an officer alongside Charles Kennedy of the Liberal Democrats and Peter Mandelson from Labour. The purpose of bullying Mr Cash — who is entitled to accept it — for accepting money from Mr Goldsmith — who has a right to offer it — was to steer public attention away from how far the Conservative Party has moved towards a position of *de facto* renegation of our EU membership.

Unfortunately for the Whips' Office, Baroness Thatcher swooped, replacing Sir James as the foundation's most prominent backer. As she does not intend to stand against party candidates next time, this presented a problem for the Prime Minister. What interpretation of individual liberty could be used to discredit her donation? Fortunately one was at hand. The new Major doctrine is that all Conservatives with any spare change should donate it to Central Office rather than Mr Cash. This somewhat Maoist doctrine of servitude to the party seems hard to reconcile with the last manifesto.

If the Government's stand on Europe were all that it should be, Bill Cash, Lady Thatcher, and many others would be queuing up to hand over their fortunes for the election fund. While there is a snowball's chance in Hades that a re-elected Conservative administration might endorse a single currency in the next Parliament, such people would be very unwise to do so.

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Lord Mackay's true valour

The author of the divorce Bill continues his pilgrim's progress

The name of the slough was Despond and the name of the valley was Humiliation. And Pilgrim saw a castle, called Doubting-Castle, the owner whereof was Giant Despair. Yet he plodded on, through the murky tail-end of the Parliament, holding a light whereby to redeem its wretched reputation.

The parallels between Bunyan's Pilgrim and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, are closer by the day. He carries the Government's one guttering light of decency and civility, the Family Law Bill, which finally returns to the Commons on Monday. With right-wing "initiatives" oozing across Whitehall on the pleadings of Downing Street, this Bill is the one sober measure on John Major's Cabinet agenda. It has been victim of cynical Labour opposition and a squalid campaign by the *Daily Mail*. But it remains a model of Tory reform, both libertarian and liberal.

At least the past month's controversy has made the Bill itself clearer. Its intention is not to make divorce easier or harder. It is to make this final trauma of a failed marriage less acrimonious, less expensive and less damaging to children. Lawyers would have a smaller role to play and mediators (not conciliators) a larger one. Above all, the Bill seeks to remove the concept of marital fault from the law of divorce, "to get the lawyer out of the marriage bed". I cannot imagine a nobler rubric for an Act of Parliament.

The Bill in its present form will more than double the average length of divorce proceedings. The delay is intended to ensure that no divorce should be allowed until final settlement. That in itself should reduce the number of divorces, since at least some couples may change their minds in that period. The one substantial amendment so far made to the Bill is to extend the delay from 12 months to 15, or 21 months if either party objects or if children are involved. There is no shred of evidence that the Bill will make divorce easier than at present. That claim is merely a cover for other, more contorted, reasons for opposing the Bill.

Such has been the Cabinet's gloom in recent weeks that there was talk of abandoning Lord Mackay's Bill to the right-wing wolves. At committee

stage, four Cabinet ministers had taken sides against what was supposedly a Cabinet Bill. The whips were nervous of further embarrassment. Labour votes, on which the Bill might depend, were also uncertain. The Opposition's Paul Boateng decided that a Bill which Labour had originally favoured was now a "legislative Frankenstein" and "battered and unworkable". Not until last week did Tony Blair, the Labour leader, read the riot act against such opportunism. Labour is now likely to vote in favour.

Meanwhile, Lord Mackay ploughs on, fielding amendments by critics from every side. The delay period will probably be reduced by three months after protests from children's lobbyists that 21 months leaves children uncertain for too long. Labour also wants the Lord Chancellor to protect children and victims of violence during a divorce. This, too, will be agreed. So will the wish of critics from the Right that unwilling divorces should be able, as part of a settlement, to register publicly their reluctance to separate. Such changes are part of the process of consultation and amendment that should surround all legislation.

What cannot be and has not been conceded is the essence of this reform, an essence that should inform all social legislation. This is that the State's task is to order relations between private citizens, not pass judgment on those relations. The State is a policeman not a priest. It should protect children and the rights of property. It should not require that those suffering the painful and intimate experience of divorce should have to accuse each other of adultery or cruelty in a public court, before being rewarded with a six-month "quickie" decree. This is a domestic equivalent of medieval trial by combat. It was primitive in the 13th century and it is primitive today. If Monday's Bill fails, this rotten law could survive another decade.

Laws constantly intrude on morality. They do so on embryology, abortion, Sunday trading, homosexuality, euthanasia and censorship. Yet in tackling these "moral issues", the good legislator strives for objective regulation (or non-regulation), not moral judgment. Where the law trespasses into judgment — as it has over drug use — it invites evasion and contempt. It does not suppress



The Lord Chancellor: upholding the Government's reputation

wrongdoing or unhappiness. It merely shifts their incidence and changes their character. In my lifetime, Parliament has legalised abortion and homosexuality, and in doing so has reduced human misery. The same applies to successive divorce reforms. Imperfect though each has been, Nobody can believe that human happiness is increased by forcing

collapsed marriages through a fault-based legal process, in the hope of thereby achieving reconciliation. This is mere punishment, and without concern for collateral damage. Failed marriages are best avoided by making it harder to get married (I find scant support for this measure). They are not rescued by exacerbating the pain of their failure. A sinking

ship does not become seaworthy when refused access to the harbour.

Nor can I see how fault-based divorce "protects the family", as the critics claim. Banning divorce altogether might mean more couples staying together in some miserable bond. But the Bill's critics are not advocating that. They are voting to retain the present system, whereby 75 per cent of divorces use the "quickie" fault-based route — easier if more hurtful than under Lord Mackay's Bill. The present law does not keep families together; it rather destroys the love and respect between parents and children at the moment of family breakdown. It is cruel. For its advocates to profess themselves "pro-family" is monstrous.

I search for motives in those wishing to retain fault. Most attitudes to divorce (as to the upbringing of children) are solipsistic, dictated by individual experience, by a person's hopes and fears, ambitions and regrets. The concept of statutory blame is seen as a magic charm, capable of warding off insecurity, jealousy, hatred and perhaps temptation. Many divorces themselves profess to be against divorce, remembering the golden years of their marriage. The House of Lords debate on the Bill was ludicrous, many peers apparently believing that divorce is about old men chasing young girls.

Despite their past confusion over divorce, the Churches have been unanimous in support of this Bill. Both Anglican and Roman Catholic leaders have recommended it be passed. The former Archbishop of York, Lord Habgood, and Cardinal Hume recently reiterated their support. So have most marriage guidance and childcare agencies. There may be argument over how best to implement mediation, but the Bill's essentials are mostly uncontroversial outside the ranks of the Conservative Party.

A divorce is not a blessing granted by a stern State only to those who can push a pea down a Family Division corridor in the Law Courts. It is a human and civil right. The breakdown of a marriage has consequences for property and children, which the law must regulate. Where the law is breached, punishment is appropriate. But it is not the job of the law to punish by blame, acrimony and public humiliation those who break their marriage vows, for reasons that are of no public concern.

Why some Conservatives find this hard to swallow is a mystery. They appear to have forgotten their commitment to deregulation, privacy, individual freedom and reducing the role of the State. Tory opponents of the Family Law Bill have come to believe the Great Heresy that laws can make men good and happy. Even Lenin gave up on that one.

Cat flap

HUMPHREY the Downing Street cat has been forcibly restrained from the garden at No 10. John Major issued the decree the other day because a pair of mallard ducks are nesting under a bush in one of the herbaceous borders. Humphrey has been known to savage ducks in the past.

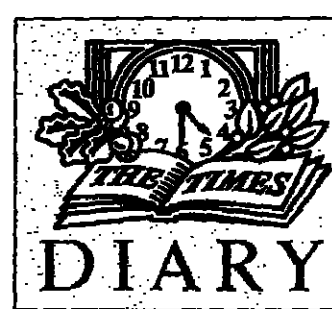


"I've got my knighthood, you can cancel my standing order to the Tory party"

The couple's arrival has brought out the ornithologist in Major, who now takes in the mallards on any tour of Downing Street. "He has taken to them as if they were his personal pets," says one insider. "Humphrey used to rule the roost but now I think he's banned."

The ruling comes after suspicions in recent years that Humphrey has been a secret duckling-grabber on nocturnal excursions to St James's Park. Major has defended his cat publicly in the past, but now the aged feline is in fetters. The arrival of the British ducks has provided a welcome diversion from the European troubles forced on the Prime Minister by his predecessor. I am reliably informed that he instructed his staff at Downing Street to ensure that the ducks were spared Humphrey's attentions during his foray to Wales yesterday.

Congratulations to the statesman Enoch Powell, whose 84th birthday falls tomorrow. He can expect a fine bottle of Chablis and a smoked eel to be left on his doorstep by his many devotees, in a long-established custom which sa-



lutes the great man's love of fine living.

Rule of Law

THE Scottish legend Denis Law has surpassed himself. The former Manchester United and Scottish striker will be attending this afternoon's Euro 96 derby between his national side and England at Wembley. It was Law who absented himself so conspicuously from the World Cup final in 1966, which England won, simply because he couldn't bare to see a Sassenach victory. Instead, he played golf at Chertsey, Chertsey. "I played an awful round partly because I knew that if England won I'd never hear the end of it," he recalls. "This time, I know that things will be different."

London's latest Italian restaurant, Cento 50 in Notting Hill, ran out of the pizzas which made up the bulk of its dismal menu on the opening night this week. Compensation for the disappointment came in the guise of where male customers were afforded an astonishing view from the men's urinals in the upstairs toilet: straight into the top bedroom of former Chancellor Norman Lamont's home.

Dot to dot

DAMIEN HIRST, the death-enthused artist, has set the art world spinning by suggesting his polka-dot pictures may have a hidden meaning. Hirst, whose latest work sold at auction recently for £28,000, has indicated that the variously coloured dots each stand for a letter of the alphabet. Art experts at major auction houses are desperately trying to decipher the code.

Their efforts are likely to come to nothing, however. "It was actually one of Damien's little jokes," said a friend of the artist. "But it's all been taken rather seriously. Christie's rang me the other day to ask whether I could help."

Magdalen College, Oxford, saw thespian students taking their parts to heart at the annual

garden show the other day. Banquo's murderers in a performance of Macbeth hit the ale before the performance; in drunken glee, they attacked their victim with such vigour that he was all but carried off to hospital.

Swiss cheese

TEN YEARS after he died, the prejudices of the Argentine master-writer Jorge Luis Borges have come to light. Despite his grumpiness, many thought him to have been a model of chivalry to women.



Queen of the cantons

However, a recently discovered letter shows that ladies could bring out his beastly side. Unimpressed by the Swiss girls whom he met while at school in Geneva, the 17-year-old Borges wrote to a friend: "Although girls abound here, they are all extremely ugly. Their faces are full of freckles, they're tacky, they have hands and feet like giants. And since they never wash, and sweat so much from all the walking, I have to say they stink."

Dr Defiant

DEFIANT to the last, Jon Pertwee, the most enduring Dr Who of all, claimed he was unimpressed by Daleks. In his last interview before he died, for the Pearson group, he dismissed the tin-voiced monsters as inconsequential.

"They weren't a threat at all. Rush down a flight of stairs and you've got them," he said. "Although I think they're making them hover now."

Back Bacon

THE GHOST of Soho matriarch Muriel Belcher returned to the Colony Room yesterday in the shape of a Francis Bacon portrait. Christie's chose the bohemian venue, found-



No threat from the Daleks

ed by Belcher, to publicise its contemporary art auction later this month at which the painting is estimated to fetch up to £750,000.

It was the first time that a picture by Bacon, who called Belcher "Mother", has been on the premises and the present manager, Michael Wojas, was keen to organise a whirlwind to buy it. Certainly, Colony Room member John Edwards, and the main beneficiary of Bacon's £11 million estate, could afford it. Other members present were agitated at the elderly security guard provided by Christie's. "Such a shame," said Marsh Dunbar, a member since 1949. "Francis loved handsome young men in uniform."

MARIE-LOUISE von MOTESICZKY

I am Sir, your obedient servant
Arthur Pascoe Hampstead, June 11

